Thursday, July 24, 2008

$1.00 includes GST

County Voice.ca

Haliburton County's Local Weekly Newspaper

Vol 1 Issue 26

Ruckus jumps in a demonstration of police doggy duties during the Dorset Emergency Awareness Day. More pictures pg. 21.

Three Hospitalized, One Charged In Serious Morning Accident on Kennisis Lake Rd.

A single vehicle car accident that occurred this past Monday on Kennisis Lake Rd. sent three people to hospital. An 11 year-old boy was airlifted to the Sunnybrooke Hospital in Toronto.

At 11:02 a.m. a Toyota Corolla travelling Northbound was clipped by a float service hauler heading in the opposite direction. Those injured in the Toyota that ended up in the ditch included 45 year-old Alana Smith of Mississauga, her nine-year-old daughter Sabrina and son Max. The vehicle was removed by West Guilford Towing.

Members of the O.P.P., Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were all at the scene.

Charged with going left of centre on a curve is the truck driver Lionel Mitchell of Coe Hill.

Friendly Racoons, Skunks and Snacks... pg. 16.

Inside This Issue:

Dancing into Dusk.... pg. 20.

Property Owners Say No to Airport Expansion

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

A solid core of property owners from the Maple, Beech & Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners Association (MBCLAPOA) are increasing their campaign against expansion of the Stanhope Airport. The campaign, called "Let's Clear the Air" maintains that there is no economic justification for the development and that expansion of the airport will cost taxpayers in Algonquin Highlands dearly.

> "The project is ill-conceived and the money spent already is in excess of a half million dollars."

A team of four property owners with impressive technical and business management résumés has spent hundreds of hours researching the viability of the proposed addition of a crosswind runway. While they support the activities of the existing airport they question the decision of the Algonquin Highlands Council to continue with their investigations into airport expansion.

The Stanhope Airport has been a Municipal aerodrome since 1968 but a grass strip has been in use for years at that location by private operators. According to MBCLAPOA Director Andy Muirhead, when the government started to download airports to municipalities, an Airport Master Plan was commissioned. This eventually resulted in the Federal and Provincial governments investing one time funding of $1.1 million dollars in 1988 for capital improvements to pave and light the runway, taxiway and parking apron. The justification for the work at the time was that it would boost economic development in the area.

The Master Plan looked into the feasibility of either lengthening the runway or developing a separate cross wind runway. According to Muirhead, one of the problems that arose was the runway extension would have required redirecting the airport road. Construction of the current paved strip was considered adequate for their 20-year plan. The idea of expansion was dropped in part due to the restrictions caused by certain local terrain features which could cause air turbulence, limitations to the usable length of the crosswind alignment, as well as excessive cost.

Even in the late 1990's a move was afoot by the Algonquin Highlands Council for expansion of the airport. In 2002 airport expansion estimates were prepared and work finally culminated in 2006 with a Business Vision being prepared for Council that promotes further airport development. Estimates to build a 4000' crosswind runway from the shores of Cameron Lake to the Gull River, new commercial hangers, a housing development, apron expansion and installation of a global positioning system ranged from $3.8 million dollars to a whopping $5.8 million dollars.

The rationale for the improvements included economic development, improving safety at the airport as well as enhanced medical services and fire protection. It is the Council's position that a longer runway would attract more and larger aircraft including small jets. Air charters, scheduled operators and MNR water bombers and air-ambulances service activity are expected to enhance revenues, tourism, business and public safety.

Airport cont'd... pg. 6...

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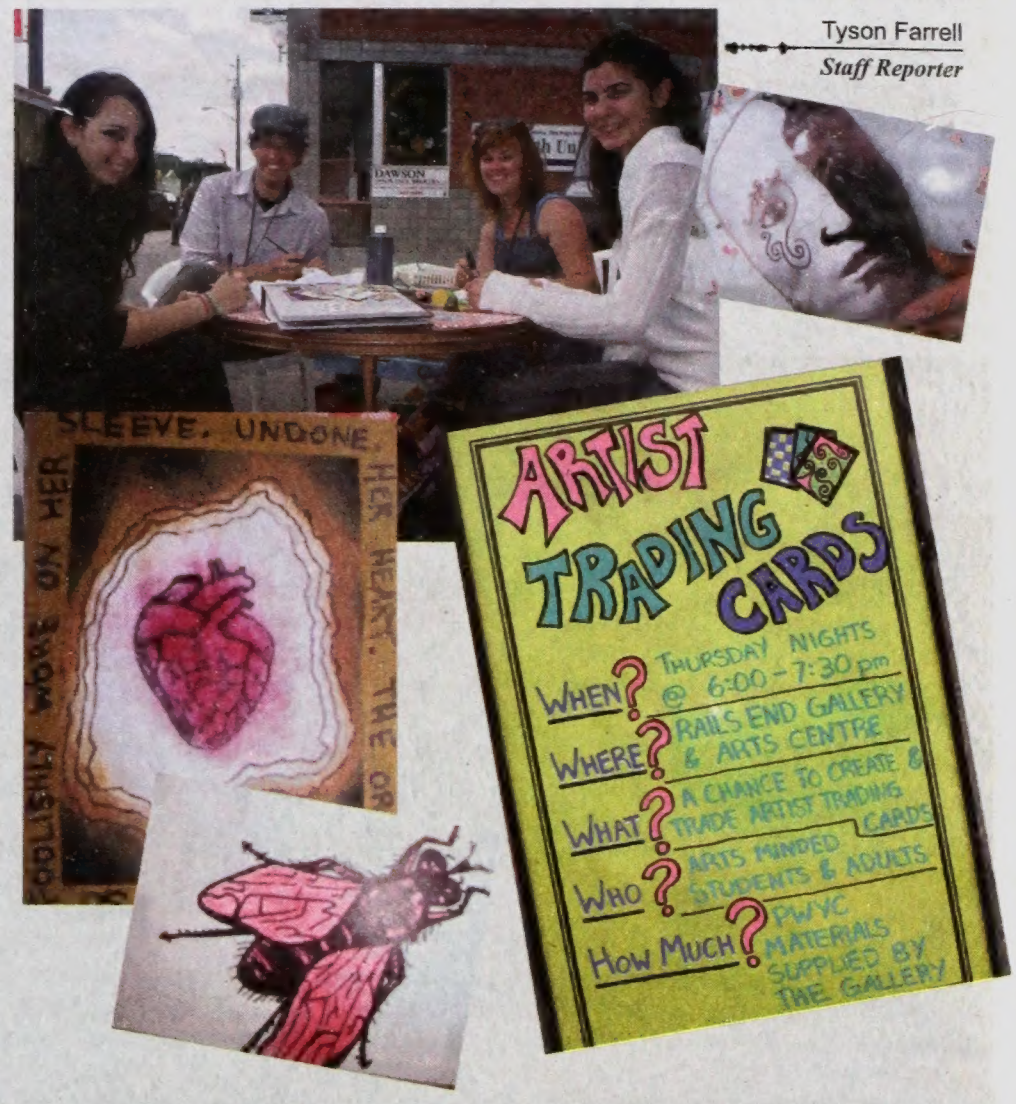
Rails End Takes Art to the Streets

Tyson Farrell
Staff Reporter

"We're trying to make art more accessible and enjoyable for the community"



Art truly is everywhere in the Highlands, as people walking down Highland Street in Haliburton village could see on Friday. The Rail's End Gallery had a stellar display and demonstration set up in front of the Village Barn, which had many people stopping to look. Rails End employees were creating 'Art Cards' and pedestrians were encouraged to sit down and create their own.

Art Cards, also known as Artist Trading Cards, are individual art miniatures the size of a baseball card. People create the cards, then trade them with people for other Art Cards. Artists generally sign and date the back, and may also include a title and contact information. The face-to-face trading session is considered an integral part of the concept, although many people find each other via the internet and trade by mail.

"Art Cards are kind of like baseball cards, but they are artistic creations by individuals,' said Rails End Summer Art Facilitator Aaron King. "It's a worldwide thing, and the cards can be easily traded. It's a chance for people to sit down and be creative."

On Friday afternoon, people walking the streets of Haliburton sat down at the Rails End table and created their own cards. Painting, drawing, and charcoaling on small pieces of card stock, many impressive pieces of art were made. People painted everything from Jesus, bugs, and nudes, to hearts, jet planes, and statues.

"We've created an Art Cards programme in Haliburton to get people together, get them trading cards, and to encourage artistic expression," King said. "Every Thursday evening from 6pm to 7:30pm, people can come to the Rails End Gallery on York Street and make Art Cards with other interested individuals. We've been doing it for only three weeks so far, and the response has been good. We've had people coming out, creating amazing Art Cards, and trading them with other people." The Art Card evenings are free, with all materials provided by the gallery. Everybody is welcome to attend.

Aside from Art Cards, there are many exciting things going on at the Rails End. Art Attack, an outdoor experiential art camp for kids 6 and up, is happening all summer, each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Each day there is a new activity. The idea is to have fun making art outside using materials at hand and your imaginations. It only costs $8 per day, and it is a safe and stimulating environment for children. "At the Rails End, we're trying to make art more accessible and enjoyable for the community," King said. "Art Attack and Art Trading Cards are just two of the ways we do this."■

If You See of Hear News... Call Us - You Could WIn $$$$$ For Great News Tips... Call 457-5001

Sexual Assault Suspect Composite Sketch Released

On the evening of Tuesday the 08th of July 2008 the Bancroft OPP were dispatched to the site of a sexual assault that occurred in a wooded area near Cardiff in the Municipality of Highlands East. Investigation revealed that a female was sexually assaulted by an unknown adult male suspect. The incident is still under investigation and no arrests have been made. Bancroft OPP have obtained a composite suspect image with the assistance of a police artist from the Toronto Police Service and are releasing this image with hopes of identifying the suspect in this sexual assault.

Suspect description: white male, approx 6' 2", thick soft build but not muscular, short dark hair, thin "chin strap" beard extending from side burns to chin on both sides of face, remainder of face is clean shaven, 2 to 3 inch circular tattoo on underside of right forearm.

Suspect clothing description: ball hat with dark colored front half and white mesh rear half, unknown circular logo with lettering on front of ball hat, dark shirt with white lettering on front over a logo with lettering below logo "Ath. Dept.", dark colored shiny shorts.

Police are encouraging anyone who may have any information in relation to this incident to contact the Bancroft OPP at 613-332-2112 OR Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Members of the public should use caution when walking alone and be aware of their surroundings.

Say you saw it in the Voice

AROUND THE REGION: Mild weather will be experienced on Thursday and Friday as highs reach the mid- and upper 20s. A wet weekend will be experienced as thunderstorms will be possible on Saturday and a few lingering showers on Sunday. Highs will be in the middle 20s. A few thunderstorms will redevelop on Monday afternoon, but drier weather will be experienced on Tuesday and Wednesday.

THURSDAY
Partly cloudy and mild
▲ 27° ▼ 13°

FRIDAY
Partly sunny and continued mild
▲ 24° ▼ 13°

SATURDAY
Chance of scattered thunderstorms
▲ 24° ▼ 13°

SUNDAY
Cloudy with a few lingering showers
▲ 26° ▼ 15°

MONDAY
Chance of a few P.M. thunderstorms
▲ 24° ▼ 13°

TUESDAY
Partly cloudy and pleasant
▲ 26° ▼ 14°

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy and a little warmer
▲ 27° ▼ 13°

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

LOTTO 649 — July 19, 2008
10 20 28 36 40 46
Bonus Number 23
Encore 6747304

SUPER 7 — July 18, 2008
09 11 12 22 34 35 37
Bonus Number 07
Encore 5669848

Next Jackpot is $2,500,000

These are all unofficial numbers. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

Fire Rating
Moderate

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/Otlk	Friday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Saturday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Sunday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Monday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Tuesday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Wednesday Hi/Lo/Otlk
Bancroft	24/13/pc	24/13/pc	26/15/ts	24/13/ts	26/14/ts	27/13/pc	28/14/pc
Barrie	24/13/pc	25/14/pc	26/15/ts	25/13/ts	26/14/ts	27/14/pc	28/15/pc
Dorset	23/13/pc	24/13/pc	26/15/ts	24/13/ts	26/14/ts	27/13/pc	28/14/pc
Haliburton	24/13/pc	24/13/pc	26/15/ts	24/13/ts	26/14/ts	27/13/pc	28/15/pc
Huntsville	23/13/pc	24/13/pc	26/15/ts	24/13/ts	26/14/ts	27/14/pc	28/14/pc
Kingston	25/13/pc	26/14/pc	27/16/ts	26/15/ts	27/16/ts	27/16/pc	28/17/pc
Lindsay	24/13/pc	25/14/pc	26/15/ts	25/13/ts	26/14/ts	27/14/pc	28/16/pc
Minden	24/13/pc	24/13/pc	26/15/ts	24/13/ts	26/14/ts	27/14/pc	28/15/pc
Oshawa	24/14/pc	26/14/pc	27/16/ts	26/15/ts	27/16/ts	27/16/pc	28/17/pc
Ottawa	25/14/ts	24/14/cl	27/16/sh	26/15/ts	27/16/ts	27/16/cl	26/16/cl
Toronto	24/14/pc	26/15/pc	27/17/ts	26/15/ts	27/16/ts	28/16/pc	28/17/pc

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/Otlk	Friday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Saturday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Sunday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Monday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Tuesday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Wednesday Hi/Lo/Otlk
Calgary	21/9/sh	25/9/su	25/12/su	23/11/pc	26/12/su	29/13/su	32/16/pc
Edmonton	27/14/pc	28/15/pc	27/16/su	21/11/pc	24/10/su	27/13/cl	26/13/sh
Fredericton	24/18/ts	24/16/pc	26/19/cl	26/20/ts	27/17/ts	27/13/sh	24/13/sh
Halifax	27/18/ts	26/18/sh	24/19/cl	21/20/ra	23/19/cl	21/16/sh	20/14/sh
Montreal	26/14/ts	25/14/sh	27/17/sh	26/15/ts	27/16/ts	28/17/sh	25/16/sh
Regina	26/14/ts	29/16/su	29/18/su	32/19/su	29/14/pc	31/17/su	32/18/pc
St. John's	24/16/pc	24/17/sh	16/16/sh	17/15/ts	16/15/cl	17/13/sh	19/13/sh
Saskatoon	25/13/cl	28/18/su	28/16/su	28/16/su	30/18/pc	28/15/pc	28/14/pc
Vancouver	26/15/su	27/15/su	22/14/pc	26/13/pc	22/13/su	23/14/sh	22/15/cl
Whitehorse	16/9/sh	15/7/sh	12/5/ra	15/4/sh	15/0/pc	12/-1/sh	12/1/sh
Winnipeg	26/16/ts	21/11/sh	30/14/dz	23/12/su	28/15/pc	27/15/pc	30/16/pc

AREA ALMANAC

Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Monday 7/21	23°C	14°C	5.6 mm
Sunday 7/20	23°C	16°C	2.3 mm
Saturday 7/19	27°C	19°C	0.0 mm
Friday 7/18	25°C	18°C	8.9 mm
Thursday 7/17	28°C	13°C	0.0 mm
Wednesday 7/16	28°C	15°C	0.0 mm
Tuesday 7/15	25°C	12°C	0.0 mm

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
www.stanhopeairport.com

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu.	5:51 a.m./8:50 p.m.	11:28 p.m./12:49 p.m.
Fri.	5:52 a.m./8:49 p.m.	11:54 p.m./2:05 p.m.
Sat.	5:53 a.m./8:47 p.m.	none/3:25 p.m.
Sun.	5:54 a.m./8:46 p.m.	12:27 a.m./4:44 p.m.
Mon.	5:55 a.m./8:45 p.m.	1:12 a.m./5:58 p.m.
Tues.	5:56 a.m./8:44 p.m.	2:09 a.m./7:00 p.m.
Wed.	5:58 a.m./8:43 p.m.	3:21 a.m./7:50 p.m.

Last July 25 · New Aug. 1 · First Aug. 8 · Full Aug. 16

Forecasts, graphs and data provided by Weater Central, Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2008

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Outstanding Point Lot — $299,900

Enjoy stunning views from this gorgeous level point lot with rippled sand bottom & south-west exposure. There are only a few properties past this one on a dead end road so the privacy is great. The cottage has 4 bedrooms, full bath, shower/laundry room & has year round potential. The adjacent, vacant waterfront lot (460110200064300) is also for sale. Buy both & own 292' of waterfront which would be 536' including the open shore road allowances. All offers must be contingent on the cottage property selling first.

Great Privacy — $199,900

Enjoy PRIVACY Plus on this 2 acre parcel not far from Kashagawigamog Lake. Lots of room to roam and putter in the gardens or relax in your own open breeze screened sunroom. This spacious bungalow has a finished recreation room and a bunkie to boot. Gorgeous ceramic floors & wood cover most of the main level. A large 20' x 30' workshop awaits your imagination. Call for your appointment today!

Spacious Mountain Lk. Property — $599,900

Unique opportunity to buy a private, yr-rnd waterfront estate with over 3 acres on prestigious Mountain Lake. 125 ft. of water frontage on a quiet bay with a Bunkie near the water's edge. Brick built home with over 4,000 sq. ft. of lvg sp., 4 bdrs, 3 1/2 baths, 2 beamed lvg rooms, 2 offices/studios(1 has a washroom, storage & separate entrance). Dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, exercise/plant room, wine making room, main floor laundry & loads of storage. Oil heating w/an air-tight wood stove for extra winter comfort. A/C cools in summer.

Great Privacy — $349,900

This rare 1.5 acre lot includes meandering walkways, limestone accents, towering trees, pond/waterfall, gorgeous low maintenance perennial gardens, a gazebo AND a guest house. The property has over 400 feet of frontage on Beaver Creek which runs into Gull River and then into Gull Lake. A very well maintained 2200 sq ft log home with a newer roof, includes 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths & walk-out basement with a great workshop. No more septic, wells or long laneways to plow - move into town. Lots of inclusions...don't hesitate.

Call Today To See These Listings

Hal & Patti JOHNSON

475' on Horseshoe Lake — $649,900

475 feet of waterfront with 4 acres of property ensures great privacy for this 4 season property. This level lot provides easy year round access. A sand beach is just waiting for the kids. The master bedroom overlooks the lake from a private balcony. This home is equipped with a heat pump, central air & vac, intercom, drilled well and stone fireplace. This one has it all!!

2000' on Blue Hawk Lk. — $649,900

Have you ever wanted your own private retreat? Picture this...2000' of SW lake frontage bounded by rivers on both sides with 135 acres of mixed forest. All this and a sand beach. To get you started there is a huge garage with full loft above, covered picnic area and ample storage buildings. Check this property out for severance and development potential.

Glamor Lk. Cedar Panabode — $349,000

Enjoy the big lake view from this 4 bedroom, cedar Panabode cottage on Glamor Lake. Easy year round access. Level lot with plenty of room for the kids to play while you relax on the deck. Child friendly entry with a sand bottom. Large open concept with a floor to ceiling stone fireplace with an air tight wood burning insert.

Modern Country Living — $239,900

Enjoy country living on the outskirts of Minden yet still close to school, shopping & hospital. This immaculate R2000 bungalow set on a large lot(1.49 acres) was built in 2001 & has so much to offer. Features include air conditioning, central vac., air exchanger & spacious fully insulated 2-car garage with wood heat. Boat launch to Gull River and Gull Lake close by. Come on up and enjoy the Highlands!!

Commercial Opportunity with Residence - $299,900

Many uses currently allowed including (but not limited to) professional office, financial institution, and restaurant or retail store. Currently a variety store. The upscale living quarters includes 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite bathroom, nice bright kitchen with beautiful granite counter tops & a Blanco sink. Lots of room for entertaining in the nice big living room with vaulted beamed ceiling and gorgeous windows. It even has a cedar lined hideaway with a hot tub. A bachelor apartment or in-law suite tops off the package. Call today for more information

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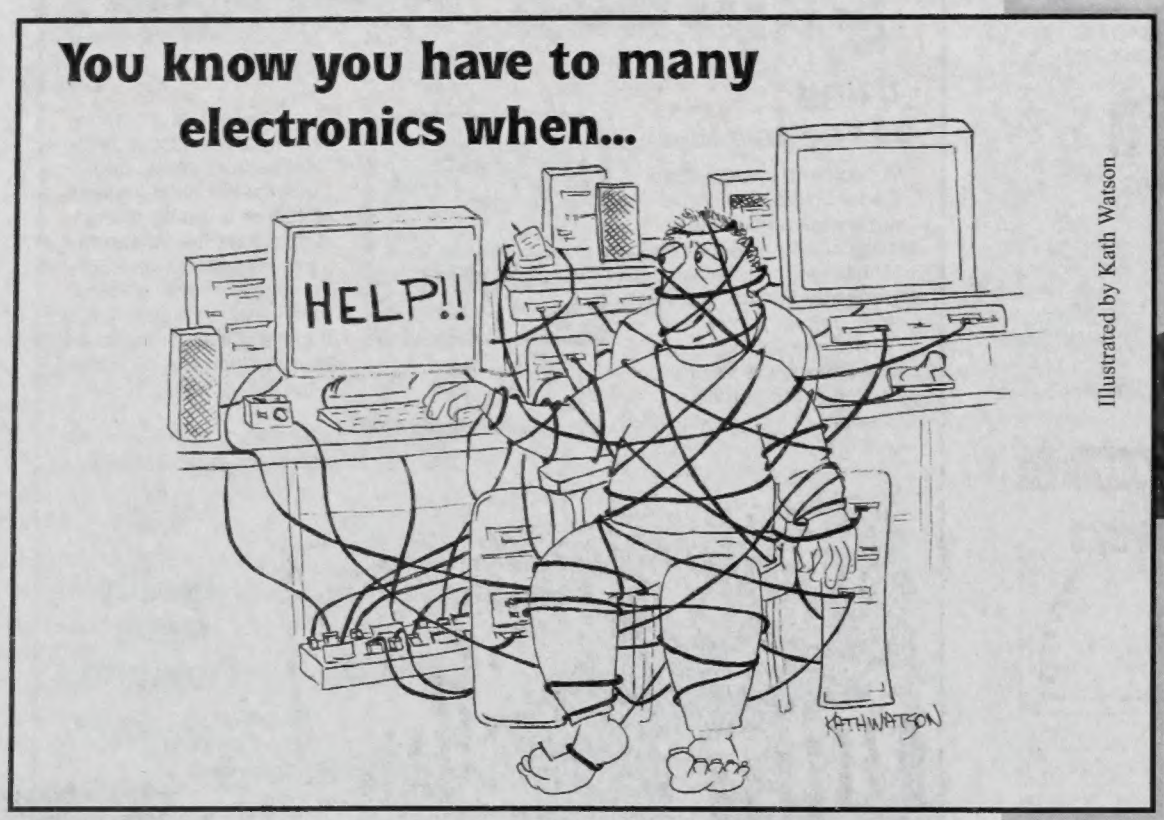

Illustrated by Kath Watson

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

"We'll divert water from Canada: they have more than they need."

I had the opportunity recently to attend an evening to listen to Robert F Kennedy Jr. speak in Peterborough. During his talk he warned Canadians to ensure that our water rights are protected and he used the reference that Nevada is running out of water. When the bureaucrats were asked what they would do in the event that Nevada ever ran out water, they simply stated "we'll divert water from Canada: they have more than they need."

I then proceeded to write an email to Laurie Scott our M.P.P for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, my email stated:

"I would like to hear our government's position on Canadian Water Rights. I attended the event sponsored by Trent University last evening to hear Robert F Kennedy Jr. speak on the environment. It was frightening to hear that they expect that the Colorado River will run dry in less than two decades. More frightening is that US politicians are not concerned as Robert F Kennedy clearly stated that they will divert water from Canada in the event that Colorado dries up. As you know, this has been a hot topic on the Great Lakes Basin for many years.

"Please assure me, that we have laws in place or that our Government will not succumb to the pressures of our closest Neighbour to plunder our resources."

I just received a written response from Laurie Scott that states, in part: "My colleagues and I are concerned that the McGuinty Liberal Government may not be taking the threat to our Province's water supply seriously. Water certainly is one of our greatest treasures and we will continue to keep a close eye on this Government and its water initiatives."

I am now more frightened than ever that we are not protecting one of our most valuable resources. This is not an issue of Liberals versus Conservatives, or any other political party. This is an issue that concerns all of us.

We need to act now: if we think our current water basin in Haliburton and the Kawarthas is under threat now, what do you think might happen when the Great Lakes get drained to the US and they need our water to replenish that watershed?

Alan Roberts
Haliburton ON

Letters to the editor are always welcome.
Have your say !! Write today!!

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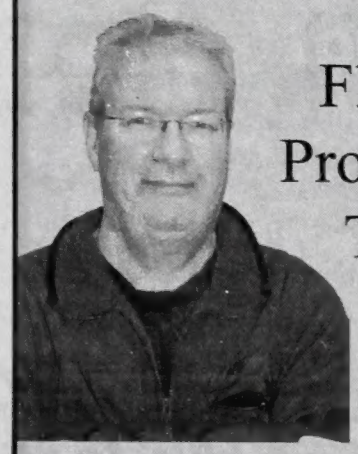
EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

BY Stephen Patrick



Flying Machines, Property Rights, and Taxpayers' Money

As the Voice's Municipal Affairs Writer Liz Danielsen reports on Page 1 of this issue, the fight to halt the proposed expansion of the Stanhope Airport is gaining in momentum daily. Rarely in Haliburton County have we seen such a well-organized, well-researched, and determined campaign to prevent a controversial development from going ahead. According to Paul MacInnes, President of the Maple, Beech & Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners Association (which we'll call the MBC), the fight has seriously strained the relationship between his Association and the Municipality of Algonquin Highlands, and in particular its Reeve, Eleanor Harrison.

The MBC perceives Harrison as determined to achieve the Airport expansion at virtually any cost: "Even though we're in the middle of another project study, the Municipality is still approaching landowners and requesting permission to "top" some trees on their properties which are too tall for the planned runways' approach/take-off slope," says MacInnes. "This, in addition to going ahead and expropriating private land, at a cost close to $250,000, before any expansion is approved, is in our view entirely inappropriate."

Paul Irwin, Cameron Lake's representative on the MBC, and a survivor of the famous, and successful, "People or Planes" fight to scrap the Pickering Airport plans in the 1970s, maintains that there has been precious little direct consultation with the affected landowners: "What we're asking for, as much as anything else, is transparency in municipal affairs, for the democratic process to be respected. We feel that so far the consultation process has been little more than a joke. When it's our money, and when it's our community's future that's at stake, that's really not good enough." An example of this might be Algonquin Highlands' decision to allow just two days between the release of its project report, on September 18th, and the holding of a public meeting. Two days is not a lot of time for cottagers, or councillors, to absorb all the technical details the report will likely contain.

The MBC was one of the cottage associations that got together quietly in early June to explore ways in which they could benefit each other, and have a stronger say in political affairs on every level on issues of direct concern to their memberships. As we pointed out in this space last week, the emergence of distinctive "Lake Communities", as described by Cartographer and Geographer Stephen Foster, will inevitably increase the pressure on local Councils to become more transparent and accountable.

The Stanhope Airport fight may be an early indication of just how this pressure may play out. The proposed condominium development on Head Lake in Haliburton will clearly be another bellwether case. Dysart Council has been very careful to involve the public early on in the assessment process, yet there is still serious concern among some residents and environmental groups that the process is not transparent enough.

Municipal governments traditionally have dealt with the most bread and butter political issues – roads, signs, sewage, setbacks, and so on. That's perhaps why disagreements on Councils, and occasionally with taxpayers, can be so visceral, so personal. But when demands for information, transparency, and the right to be heard reach such high levels, as evidenced in two of our municipalities this summer, it's clearly time for Councils to take notice. Change at the municipal level is sometimes very long in coming – but when it does, it can redefine a community's political direction overnight. And 2010, the next municipal election date, is not that far off.■

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A Hometown Publication

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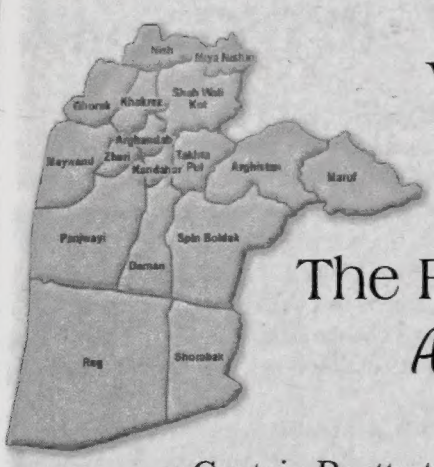

Vacation Time!

The Road to Kandahar
A Soldier's Journal

by Captain David Beatty

Captain Beatty takes a Short Vacation

For the past 25 weeks Canadian Forces Captain David Beatty has provided readers of the Voice with a unique, personal view of the preparations leading up to his deployment in Afghanistan, as well as riveting, sometimes funny, sometimes tragic accounts of his time in Kandahar and on patrol in the southern part of the country.

Beatty, the son of Bill and Anne Beatty of Drag Lake, Haliburton, is on a richly deserved two week vacation, visiting his wife, daughter, and parents in Canada. His column will continue in August when he rejoins his troops in Afghanistan.

Happy Holidays, David, and we'll see you in a few weeks.■

Black Bear More Than Neighbours Can Bear

Bear shot in shoulder, left to bleed to death

Tyson Farrell
Staff Reporter

On the front page of last week's County Voice there was picture of an adventurous young black bear. The omnivore had broken into the residence of Dorothy and Ron Owens on Ridge View Rd in Haliburton Village on July 14. It took a few hot dogs buns and caused minimal damage. The greatest casualty was the Owens' nerves and sense of security. Despite this, the bear paid the ultimate price for his misdeeds, and was shot to death by a neighbour.

On the morning of July 16, the County Voice received an email from Ron Owens. It read, "Our bear friend was back this morning before six…he tried all the doors and windows and then proceeded to walk along the deck. At present, the MNR live trap is in the garden…baited with donuts and sugar syrup … we are hoping he can be live trapped and moved very far way. He isn't aggressive but it's not safe to have a bear around the area and Ralph (the cat) won't come upstairs at all…"

Later that same day, the County Voice received another email from Owens. "The bear showed up here last evening and went through a neighbour's window and into his kitchen," it read. "The neighbours had been away from his house for an hour and when he returned he saw that the bear had eaten some sweet goodies, left a bit of a mess, and took off. The bear returned to the same window later in the evening, so they called another neighbour with a shotgun and he was able to hit the bear in the shoulder…he thinks. The bear took of into the bush towards town whimpering and howling. The bear is expected to expire by morning, but nothing is certain."

The bear has not been seen since the 16th. It is therefore safe to assume that the bear bled out from its shotgun wound and died. Bart "the bear man" Hilhorst from the Minden Ministry of Natural Resources came the next morning, and he couldn't find the body. A neighbour commented, "Bears will sometimes run off to die when this happens. With young kids around, somebody was going to get hurt. The OPP informally suggested that if the bear returned someone should shoot it."

Although there have been several close bear encounters in the last few weeks, the MNR recently stated that bear encounters are at their lowest level in five years. It is also important to realize that if a 'problem bear' is shot, it must immediately be reported to the MNR, or else it is an illegal kill and considered poaching.

Undesirable encounters with bears can be prevented. The MNR recommends keeping your property clean and free from things known to attract bears, feeding birds only during the winter, and being extra careful with how you store and dispose of your garbage. Leaving garbage and food around your property attracts bears. Remove the temptation.■

More Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

"Our cottage sits on a 20 x 24 foot litter box."

"Why should these cats take precedence over the residents of the community?"

I've read Liz Danielsen's articles regarding feral cats in the Haliburton area and feel it's time to write about the impact these cats have on surrounding wildlife and residents, whether seasonal or full time.

I have a cottage in Wilberforce next to the colony of feral cats, and it's not pretty or inviting given the sheer number of cats there. When I opened our cottage this year during the first week of June, the smell would make you sick to enter or leave. We couldn't sit on our deck or even leave the windows open for the stench.

Gallons of pure bleach sprayed under and around the cottage have dissipated the smell somewhat but the cats continue to urinate and make their messes wherever they wish. They defecate in flower beds, horseshoe pits, sandy beach areas and under any home or cottage that sits on piers with sandy soil underneath.

In my opinion these animals create unnecessary health risks and costs to property owners and tax payers in the area. This, by the way, doesn't seem to be of concern to the animal activists. The cats do not even have rabies shots which should be a huge concern for everyone in the area.

Our cottage sits on a 20 x 24 foot litter box that has not been emptied for 7 years. Trying to find someone willing to crawl into that to repair plumbing, wiring or to level the building is impossible. I certainly don't want to. Our cottage needs to be raised, excavated and then backfilled and I'm wondering who is going to take responsibility for cleaning up the mess. Just how do you market a 20x24' litter box for resale and at what discount? It is my belief that these cats are definitely having an impact on property values in the area.

The SPCA stated that two cats left for seven years could have the potential to produce 400,000 cats in the area. Animal activists and their followers like my neighbour cannot trap/fix/release that number of cats. Common sense will tell the public that.

To give you a bit of history on this issue: in 2001 there were only two feral cats living under our cottage. I didn't have a problem with that because with only two, there was no stench or related problems. My neighbour and his wife felt sorry for them and for that reason started to feed them. But guess what? They started to breed and now that they have food, water and shelter litter after litter have been born. Efforts to find homes for them have been made but I don't believe they've found homes for them all.

It is my belief that my neighbours have single handedly created the Wilberforce colony and should be held accountable for that and for not letting nature take its course.

I have given Municipal Officials permission to trap the cats on my property as they need help from the community to get their job done. It is my hope that Municipal Councillors and the public will see the impact of these cats and that common sense will prevail. These cats are not pets and they're not welcome.

I just wanted to let people know that this cat story is not all warm and fuzzy. What would the neighbours and Township do if I were to start feeding a pack of wolves in the area, give them shelter and let them breed and breed and breed? Would I get the same backing from those same bleeding heart animal activists that Bud Friesman has received? Would that make any more sense than what he is doing now? I ask you; where are the Save the Mice activists?

I invite you to go down Clement Lake Road and speak to residents to see if you get a different story than mine. There are a lot more than two people complaining about these cats, but that is the number Bud Friesman quoted in your article "A Friend to the Feral Cats." He and people like Mary Shepherd of Animal Outreach will likely attempt to downplay the negative aspects the cats have on the community.

My question is why these cats should take precedence over the residents of the community?

Barry Sedore
Wilberforce ON

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Saturday, August 16, 2008

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Check in desk opens at 7:30 AM

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Property Owners Say No to Airport Expansion

For more comments, see editorial on pg. 4

... from pg. 1

According to Muirhead, the Ministry of Natural Resources use of the airport consists primarily of helicopters, though a Twin Otter is used for smaller water-bombing missions. He says that very rarely are fixed-wing aircraft used for emergency medical services. Most airlifts travel directly from the scene by helicopter to hospitals. As to safety issues, Muirhead says that there have been 6 non-fatal incidents in 41 years and a relatively limited number of complaints about air turbulence.

Muirhead said that even before ongoing geotechnical, economic and environmental feasibility studies are complete, almost 100 acres of private land held by the same family for generations was expropriated by the Algonquin Highlands Council in anticipation of airport expansion. According to Muirhead, Reeve Eleanor Harrison has said that there is nothing else the municipality can do with the expropriated land. Muirhead's question is, "What will they do with the land if it can't be used for airport expansion?"

"Let's Clear the Air" Campaign Escalates

Speaking of the MBCLAPOA, Muirhead says that some of their members would probably like to see the airport closed completely, but that is not the position of the Association. He was quick to add that many area residents enjoy the activity at the airport but they also feel that the airport offers services to a limited few at a fairly significant loss for a municipality the size of Algonquin Highlands.

When asked if he was suffering from the NIMBY syndrome (not in my back yard) Muirhead accepts that there could be a bit of truth to that. He did say that as far as he knows there haven't been any serious complaints about existing airport operations and those who have considered buying in the area know the airport is there. He does add, "However there are a number of us who have a problem with the new proposal as it will inflict airport traffic on people who don't currently have it and that traffic will be even closer than those affected now. In addition expansion plans on record will require the cutting of trees on private properties or possible further expropriation."

As well as Muirhead, the investigating team consists of Paul MacInnes, a former business executive who now heads his own consulting business, Ian Wall, a Professional Engineer, and Napier Simpson, an international marketer and economic development advisor. According to the team's studies, all of the municipal airports in the vicinity have been operating at a loss including Oshawa, Lindsay, Muskoka and Peterborough. Muirhead says the hope that by tripling the size of the airport will increase revenues is absolutely futile.

Muirhead did say that the Municipality itself is a very well run ship. "They do a lot with very little and they're definitely ahead of the pack with many of their initiatives," he said. But on this initiative, he says the Municipality is off track.

Muirhead has a lot of technical expertise and experience with airport development and project management. For some time he has been posing questions to Council about the proposed development, the physical limitations that are involved and the extent of earth moving required. It's his opinion that the methodology being used to complete geotechnical studies is ineffective and the results will not be sufficient for preparation of a preliminary airport design or cost estimates. In addition to that, Muirhead says, "The proposed location will result in even greater potential for wind-shear and turbulence.

"It would be like drawing a sketch of a house on a napkin and asking for a design quote. The whole point of doing geotechnical testing is to determine what is under the surface. You would have to dig at least nine metres below grade in some areas and the methods being used are not sufficiently accurate to provide the answers Council is looking for."

Muirhead is also worried about the advice Council is getting from their Project Coordinator as well as the validity of the reports that will come out of the testing. He points out that the Coordinator of the report is also the head of the Community Airports Group of Ontario (CAGO), a lobby group that exists primarily to support and promote airports.

But it all comes down to the bottom line and Muirhead says the Association's primary concern is money. "The cost of this project will be at least three times the entire municipal budget and will likely exceed $10 million dollars before they're finished. Even if it cost half of that, it's a huge investment and is based on flimsy or even non-existent justification.

"The project is ill conceived and the money spent already is likely in excess of a half million dollars. We believe it has been irresponsibly spent and should have been invested in things that our residents really need. So much else could have been done with that money," said Muirhead.

Muirhead urges residents in the area, and in fact all interested parties in the County, to ask questions of the Municipal Council and seek further information through the municipality's website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca or www.stanhopeairport.com or the Maple, Beech, Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners Association website at www.maplebeechcameronlakesarea.com.

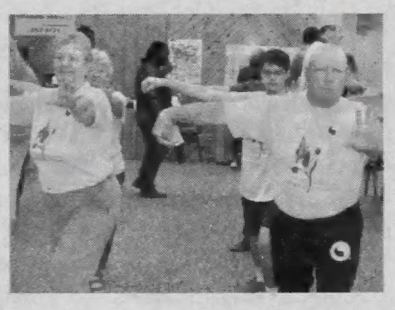
Reeve Harrison admits that members of the MBCLAPOA are strong nay sayers of the airport expansion. She said, "At this point in time we are in the midst of geotechnical work, setting out the centre line of the runway and determining viability of the project as well as whose property is affected. I cannot make any comment until that process is complete in September."

Harrison said, "We're trying to get the answers we need about cost and location of the runway. Since we need a longer runway we might as well investigate a crosswind runway as that in itself will provide a safer airport. If wind conditions are not conducive to the runway that is there, aircraft will be able to access the airport on the new runway.

"As it is the existing infrastructure needs a half million dollars or better invested in it so why not look at the larger picture."

Harrison also said, "We hope that through this process we will have the answers that property owners in the area are looking for."

At their meeting this month, the Algonquin Highlands Council acknowledged that an official report on the airport expansion will be made to them at their September 18th meeting. Representatives of the MBCLAPOA have confirmed that a public meeting will be held on September 20th.■



Health and Wellness at the Delta Pinestone Vendors Educate

In late June the Delta Pinestone Resort played host to the third annual Health and Wellness Fair.

A total of 24 vendors made it out to this year's event which allowed employees of the resort and the public to become better educated on issues dealing with health, wellness and safety. This was the first year that the event was open to the public.

"A lot of it is about raising awareness," said Trish Foden, event organizer and People Resources Manager. "Some of the vendors in attendance were from previous years, some found out about it through the Arts Council newsletter and lots of others saw it in The Communicator," said Foden.

Those who attended the fair were given a passport card. After visiting a vendor, they checked it off on the list and after filling out the card, they were eligible for a draw. Vendors were also entered in a draw for golf and dinner at the resort. Watch the Communicator for any more upcoming events such as this.■

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When Did the Wildlife Become a Nuisance ?

Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

One author's foray into the Killing Fields

Hey. Is it my imagination
or are we killing an awful lot of animals around these parts of late?

Seriously. We seem to be killing cats, feral cats, and bears with chock a block abandon.

Over the past several weeks we have heard tales of the trapping and subsequent killing of cats. We have been told that most of the cats involved in the controversy are feral cats. Feral cats are a nuisance. How do we know this?

Well, we've been apprised by the township and municipal council in no uncertain terms. Feral cats are a nuisance. Feral cats present a problem. Feral cats spray pretty plants in gardens. Gardeners and homeowners have low tolerance for any cats that spray their flower beds and porches. Feral cats compound the problem, because apparently gardeners have no recourse to litigation for damage to petunia beds. Feral cats have no owners. No one to sue. So feral cats are now disappearing. Signs are pointing to a virulent outbreak of lead poisoning.

Last week we had a picture of a black bear cub on the front page of the Voice.

Cute as a button. But of course, the fact that it had entered a residence and helped itself to bread and a pecan pie in the kitchen was not so delightful. We were told that MNR would set a trap near the property in the hopes of capturing the animal and relocating it to another area. This story did not end well.

Winnie the Pooh was caught and escaped from the live trap and made a return visit to the residence it had previously entered and was subsequently shot.

Last Saturday I attended a cottage association meeting. Talk turned to electrified fences around landfills.

The idea is to place electric fence around dumps to dissuade bears from entering. This has been mandated to provide a safe working environment for landfill site personnel. Makes eminent sense.

Trouble is, said one cottager, the electrified fence works so well that it was forcing bears to his property.

One particular bear was unlucky enough to cross paths with the cottager. When the cottager encountered the bear in his screened-in porch, he shot it.

Asked why he didn't phone the bear aware hotline, the cottager answered that he had tracked the bear aware hotline number to a Sault Ste Marie area code. The cottage association president chairing the meeting did attempt to inform the cottager that the Sault Ste Marie number was merely a dispatch location and that MNR officials are sent posthaste from the Haliburton or Minden office to address any bear or wildlife concerns.

Let's settle this issue right now. I get my computer fixed by a tech in New Delhi. Please, please Jesse James, phone the experts before pulling out the thirty aught six blunderbuss and having at it in your backyard. But I digress.

This reference to the bear hotline apparently did little to assuage the cottager's concerns or his ire.

And, in an ironic twist to this charming little ditty, he went on to explain that when he attempted to take the dead bear to the dump, the landfill staff informed him that he could not dump dead bears in the landfill. Really, it's true. Can you imagine telling Wyatt Earp that there's no more room on Boot Hill?

There is an overarching theme in all of this. And it bleeds irony.

Cottagers come to the Highlands and cottage country to imbibe of nature's wonders. Residents live here because it offers an oasis of tranquility.

Meanwhile, we are suddenly and sullenly assaulted with ongoing and disturbing scenarios that seem to be at odds with purpose. At odds with our ethos, if you will.

I hear the word nuisance bear and problem cats and I cringe. My reaction is the same when I hear about land acquisition by mining companies or golf courses on First Nation's land. It's a question of context.

My mind wanders back to a quote from a teenage girl who had been posted to India with her father, a Major in the British Occupational forces back in the early 1900s.

"It's very hot here, but our house is beautiful and the servants are very polite … if I have a complaint, it would have to be that everyone here speaks a foreign language."

Ah, if only the bears could talk. What a story they might weave.■

More Bear Visits

Husky Warns Haliburton Resident of Visitors

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

On the morning of Friday, July 18, at Patti Scheffee's home located on County Rd. #1, three bears paid a visit.

"My husky was tied up outside and he was obviously bothered by something. He was pulling at his chain, trying to get loose," said Scheffee of the incident that took place at 7:00 a.m.

When Scheffee went outside to see what all the commotion was about, a mother bear and two cubs were partially up the tree in her yard. Scheffee immediately called 9-1-1 and they instructed her to call the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to report the incident.

"They (MNR) told me to leave them alone and that they would come down when they feel it's safe."

Shortly after 10 a.m. the mother bear did make her way down the tree and the cubs soon followed after her.

"She came down and checked out the area. Her babies were crying for her and then she went back up the tree to get them. I haven't seen them since," said Scheffe.

For tips on what to do in case you have a close encounter with a bear, visit www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Bearwise/index.html.■

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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

New Camp Development in the Works on Basshaunt Lake

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

During this month's Dysart et al planning session, Rabbi Grossbaum of Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario presented Council with plans for Camp Gan Israel on the lands formerly held by Camp Kakeka. Grossbaum was requesting a waiver for site plan control on construction of three new buildings on the campsite on Basshaunt Lake.

According to Grossbaum his organization (Chabad Lubavitch) has connections throughout the world with 15 branches in Toronto and their flagship organization maintains satellite centres throughout the area. Grossbaum said their previous leader was very supportive of reaching out through camping. His initiatives got underway in the Catskills and the organization now has camps in Michigan and Canada.

Grossbaum said Chabad Lubavitch has a three-acre site in Thornhill where as many as 500 children whose families are in need of support attend day camp. He said the organization had been looking for an overnight campsite for a number of years when they found Camp Kakeka.

Grossbaum said the 200-acre site will provide the seclusion they seek. According to Grossbaum while traditional Judaism maintains the same values for both sexes they will keep them separate and run a month-long session for boys and then one for girls. These two sessions will be flanked by programs for special needs children and a mentoring program for teenagers who will be working with those children. He also confirmed that he has spoken with the Basshaunt Cottage Association about their proposed activities.

Municipal Planner Pat Martin reported that the owners recently purchased the camp and had plans to construct a new multi purpose building in the area where the former lodge had burnt down a few years ago. The new building will include theatre-style seating to accommodate religious services and other activities. A new dining hall is also planned as well as an administration building that will house offices and an infirmary. According to Martin there are no plans at this time to change the cabins or remaining camp buildings.

Grossbaum said that his organization understood the need for protection of the natural shoreline and confirmed that they have no need to develop anything close to the water. All new buildings will maintain the required water setbacks and both the dining hall and administration building will be developed much further back from the lake. He did say that they planned to open up some area for playing fields for both baseball and soccer in the future.

Concerns were raised by several members of Council about the use of existing tile beds and their distance from the lake. Martin confirmed that the original camp development required environmental approvals prior to use of the tile fields but it was acknowledged that many of the rules surrounding tile beds have changed. CAO Tammy McKelvey confirmed that prior to issuing a development permit Chabad Lubavitch would require health approvals and the tile system would be part of that review.

Grossbaum also confirmed that they would be cleaning up some of the small cabins close to the water to use for study sessions or learning classes in the morning and evening.

Councillor Janis Parker enquired whether the facilities would be used in the winter and the Rabbi said they were still unsure about insulating the buildings for winter use. He said, "There will be a lot of trial-and-error based on our resources. Many of the children cannot afford the cost of the camp and we will be looking for revenue sources to cover some of our costs."

Grossbaum also commented on the condition of the 4.0 kilometre unassumed public road (the old Peterson Trail) into the camp, joking that it would be a nice investment by the Municipality to repair the road. In fact, the Rabbi said they would likely be taking some action to make repairs at the mid-point in the road.

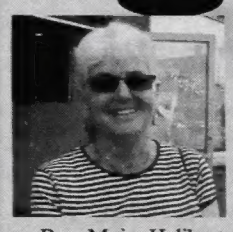
McKelvey informed Grossbaum that engineered or architectural drawings would have to be submitted to the municipality along with development permit applications. The Rabbi said surveyors were presently trying to determine what needs to be done with respect to topography and elevations as the last survey work was completed in 1987.

Deputy Reeve Bill Davis inquired about the name Gan Israel. Grossbaum, who was pleased with the inquiry, said that Israel was in fact part of the name of Baal Shem Tov, the founder of the Hasidic Judaism movement centuries ago, who was much enamored with the great outdoors and the peace offered by wilderness. The word Gan means garden so in fact the name means 'Garden of Israel'.

Council considered the Rabbi's request and, given the history of development on the site, and the fact that the proposed re-development is located well back from the high water mark, Council agreed to waive the requirement for a site-plan agreement.■

Have Your Say... VOX POP

We asked people around the town of Haliburton, "What are your thoughts on the proposed Head Lake condo project?"



Bev Muir, Haliburton – "I think it's great. We need more affordable housing in Haliburton. I think they're going to build something that's appropriate."

Jim Bryant, Haliburton – "I have three young people. One is 17 and can't get a place, the others are a young couple who can't afford first and last and can't get a place that's close to town so they can get to work. These developments are good if they help out the young people and seniors. This town is growing and we need places to put people."

Patricia Bormanis, Kennisis Lake – "I think that senior citizen housing is needed for sure. However, I believe that the general thought is that there is some curiousity around the ownership that various companies have involved with developing this condo."

Lorne Forrest, Simcoe – "I think it's needed. We've been coming up here for the last six years and it's something that has been discussed for a while. They need more housing for seniors."

Susan Carroll, Haliburton – "We do need more in town. I live at Park Lane and I know it takes years to get in there. If it's geared towards people's income that would be good."

Lois Banks, Richmond Hill – "I don't like condos, but it's ok if it's a low rise. We don't want to ruin the beauty in this County. They should integrate sustainability into it too and use solar/geothermal power and heat recovery systems."

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Bridge Opening Ceremony in Highlands East

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Last Friday MP Barry Devolin, MPP Laurie Scott, MPP Jeff Leal and Warden Eleanor Harrison joined the Highlands East Council and about 60 residents to celebrate the grand opening of the Dillman and Hadlington Bridges. Many of the community's old guard, including former Reeve Keith Tallman and long time resident Richard Young, who acted as MC for the afternoon, were on hand.

The threat of thunderstorms moved the gathering into the Lloyd Watson Community Centre, but that didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits or stop any area residents from joining in the celebration.

Reeve Dave Burton said that Dillman's bridge, which provides the connection to the old community of South Wilberforce, was closed twice for a total of eight years. The previous bridge, originally built in 1926 has been replaced with a low maintenance structure built to current engineering standards. In addition, three Hadlington Road culverts were removed and replaced with an open-span bridge structure designed to prevent overtopping during flooding.

MP Barry Devolin said, "These bridges link communities together and will help Highlands East to promote local and economic development. Our Government is pleased to have partnered with the provincial and municipal governments to complete this essential infrastructure project." Devolin added, "For those of you who use the bridge, I'm sure you will appreciate its reliability for years to come."

Devolin spoke about the three way Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) project where each partner committed just under $430 thousand dollars to the total cost of almost $1.3 million dollars. Devolin said it was his long term goal to determine how best to allocate the monies directly to the municipalities for infrastructure projects like this.

Referring to government bureaucracy at all levels Devolin said, "This three headed monster sometimes takes longer than it should and no doubt has more people involved than necessary. If you think dealing with government is complicated, one department dealing with another is equally difficult." Devolin said that his hat was off to Reeve Burton and his staff for the successful completion of the project.

Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal voiced his pleasure at being present at the bridge opening on behalf of the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Leal said that celebrations were definitely in order given the completion of what he called an essential link in the community which would improve the life of residents and make Highlands East stronger, healthier and safer.

Laurie Scott, MPP fore Haliburton-Victoria-Brock also offered her congratulations. Both Scott and Warden Eleanor Harrison congratulated CAO Sharon Stoughton-Craig for her dedication and hard work during the course of the project. Scott commented on how pleased she was to see all levels of government working together on these much needed infrastructure improvements.

Scott said, "A more streamlined process might be better but these new bridges were definitely needed. It's great to see such a strong and supportive community."

Warden Eleanor Harrison also congratulated Highlands East on the two new bridges and on the innovative way in which their installation was solved. Reeve Harrison later commented on the need for a bridge replacement at the Buckslide Dam Bridge in Algonquin Highlands, saying she hoped a similar structure as that used at Dillman's Bridge would work equally well.

Reeve Burton thanked everyone for their attendance and support, making special mention of former Reeve Tallman being present. Burton said, "The replacement of the outdated culverts on Hadlington Road with the new bridge structure provides the only link to civilization and emergency services for local residents. Both bridges have positively impacted our infrastructure and our economy."

Burton introduced the Highlands East Council to those present. He also recognized his CAO and Road Superintendent Barry Dunford for their hard work and dedication. Burton made special mention of D. M. Wills & Associates (project engineers), Atlantic Industries (bridge supplier), Royel Paving Ltd. (the contractor) and Hawk River Construction (sub-contractor).

Dillman's Bridge was named after Lyman Dillman who owned an old farmhouse south of the bridge. The Dillman family was one of the original families in South Wilberforce.

The timing of the inclement weather turned out to be perfect. The rain subsided just long enough for the visiting dignitaries to make a trip to the Bridge for a photo opportunity, but within 15 minutes of everyone's departure the deluge began in earnest.■

A Good Year for Dysart et al

"Financially, the Municipality is well positioned for the future."
(Auditor Robert Fisher)

This week auditors presented the Dysart et al Council with their 2007 year-end financial statements. Robert Fisher of Collins Barrow told Council, "You could say you've had a good year. Financially, the Municipality is well-positioned for the future.

"You're further along than most municipalities in the preparation of your policy statements. Congratulations are in order as you are well on your way with draft accounting policies for tangible capital assets." Fisher spoke of his company's role as well as their expectations as the Municipality's auditor. As part of the company's standard reporting policies, he advised Council that his firm had checked all of the Municipal controls and done random sampling. He told Council that there had been no significant errors found, there were no disagreements with management and nothing had to be brought forward to Council's attention.

Fisher had high praise for Municipal Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Fay Brown who will be leaving the Municipality. He said, "I think you should talk your treasurer into staying."

The consolidated statement of assets, liabilities and Municipal position balanced out at $4,777,970 with current assets being up and liabilities slightly down for the year. Revenues in the amount of $8,188,995, while down slightly from 2006, were more than anticipated for the year. Expenditures ($7,800,057 for both capital and operating expenses) were a bit higher than what was budgeted but were down substantially from the previous year.

While these amounts are not included in the Municipal Consolidated Statements, a total of $8.8 million dollars in property taxes and payments in lieu of property taxes was collected on behalf of the County of Haliburton and School Boards.

Long term debt was reported at $3,029,330 but according to Fisher this amount is still well within the limits as far as Municipal Affairs is concerned.

Total Reserves were reported at $3,123,485 which is comprised of cash in the bank in the amount of $1,794,154 and reserves set aside for specific purposes by Council (working capital and future capital expenditures) in the amount of $1,329,331. Budgets established for capital funds, reserves and reserve funds are project-oriented and may be carried over one or more years.

During their discussions Council considered their purchase option for the Sewage Plant and Collection System. The balance owing on the facility stands at $436,519 and is due in 2011. Brown suggested that this could be financed over four years without affecting the sewer service rates for users of the system.

Fisher told Council that he had reviewed the projection of costs to purchase the facility, but suggested due diligence by having an engineer complete an inspection to ensure that the facility has been properly maintained before making the purchase. He said, "Otherwise I can't think of any reason not to exercise your option to purchase as it won't impact your ratepayers in any significant way."

Reeve Murray Fearrey said he was confident, due to the level of maintenance on the building that things would be in good order. Fearrey thanked Fisher for his report and Council passed a resolution accepting the financial statements.

Responding to the auditor's report after the meeting, Fearrey told the County Voice, "We've certainly met the expectations of the auditor and have managed to do it without depleting our reserves. We're well-positioned for the future. Not to say there won't be increases but if we can get through the year without a deficit we've achieved good fiscal governance."■

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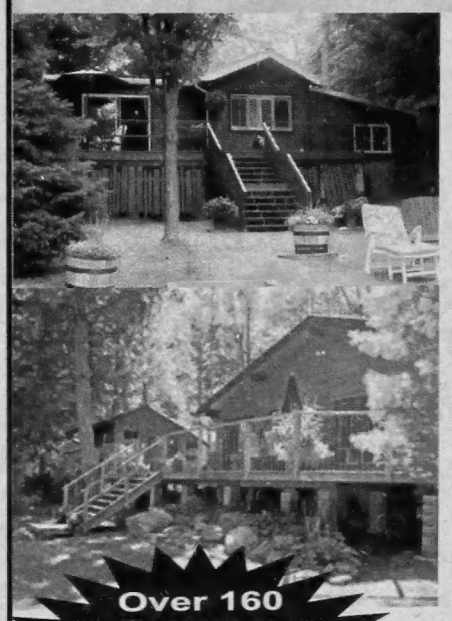
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Looking After the 'Ribbon of Life'

Tackling Waterfront Restoration at the Stewardship Series

On Friday, July 18, the Frost Centre Institute was the venue for the second informative workshop in this year's Stewardship Series offered in partnership with the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council and the Parry Sound-Muskoka Stewardship Network.

In this particular workshop, titled "A Shoreline Forest? Waterfront Restoration, Reforestation and Naturalization", expert guest speakers showed property owners how to look after their shorelines while protecting the environment. They also explored the impacts that small changes can have on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

For example, Kristie Virgoe, Manager of Environmental Protection and Restoration from the Kawartha Conservation Authority, detailed some of the native vegetation that can be planted on a shoreline that would positively impact the area while suiting the landowners needs.

Other speakers included; Kris Windover and Margaret Berube of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Minden, who discussed the ins and outs of approvals for shoreline work, and Maggie Braun, Ecological Monitoring Technician for the District Municipality of Muskoka, who explained the importance of Benthic Monitoring in assessing water quality. This monitoring involves scraping the bottom of a lake to collect samples of the creatures that live there for analysis.

Following the indoor presentations, speakers led those in attendance outdoors to evaluate waterfront areas that have been impacted in both a positive and negative manner.

The Stewardship Series workshops are designed for anyone planning and conducting work projects on private lands. Through these workshops, participants are educated with the necessary skills and knowledge required to practice good land conservation through on-the-land investigations, resource sharing and networking with land stewardship experts.

For more information on the Stewardship Council or to find out about future workshops, contact Nicole Tuyten at 705 286-5206.■

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Pictured with tree is Kristie Virgoe from the Kawartha Conservation who was on hand to give tips on how to create the ideal shoreline. Above - Maggie Braun, Ecological Monitoring Technician, shows how to assess water quality through a technique called "Benthic Monitoring".

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50 Years in Cardiff

The Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Cardiff celebrated its 50th anniversary in style at the Harcourt Community Centre last Saturday.

To show their support for the church and enjoy the meal provided at the event were: Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Rev. Nicholas DeAngelis, Bishop of Peterborough, Barry Devolin, MP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Rev. Father Bernie Heffernan, Father Ron Meyer, Father Leo Ramsperger, Father Joachim Nnanna, Pastor of St. Mary's Chandos and Dave Burton, Reeve of Highlands East.■

Dignitaries and Guests Attend Special Dinner

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

70 Years in Eagle Lake

Locals Revisit Memories of Historic Church

The community came out to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Eagle Lake Community Church on Sunday, June 13.

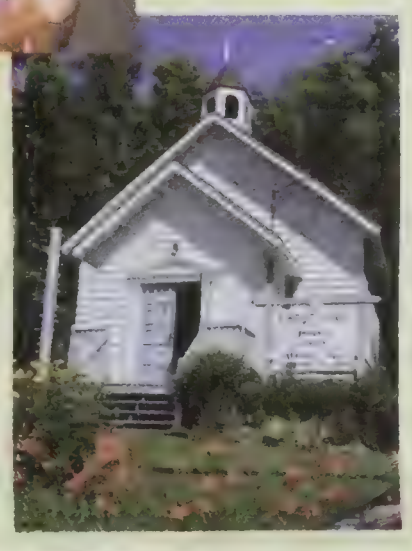
To lead Sunday's sermon was former pastor of the church John Byelis. Byelis served as head pastor for three years from 1997-2000.

"I was asked to come and celebrate the 70th year. It's really encouraging to see all these people here," he said. "I'm very thankful to God that the church is still here. Coming back brings back a lot of memories and good feelings."

Current pastor, Roy Carter, who took over for Byelis, says that the experiences he's had at the church has been both "challenging and interesting."

Also in attendance was local resident Elda Heard. Heard has attended the church since it first opened, and she and her husband Lloyd were the first couple married in the church. They tied the knot on June 8, 1940.

To reach the church call 705-754-2240.



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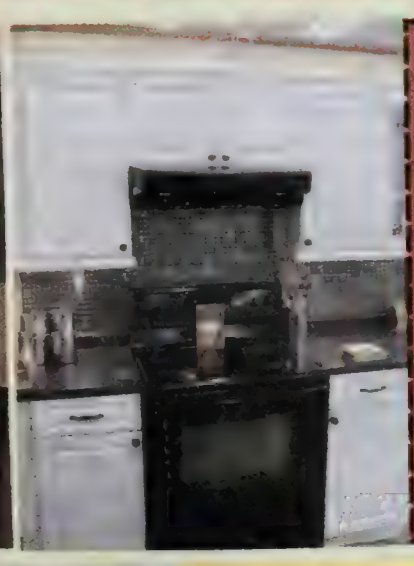

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What Do You Do with all the Goo Poo?

Minden River Walk Covered in Goose Feces

About five years ago, the Canadian military bought a fleet of heavy artillery vehicles. It was said that these vehicles could traverse any terrain, no matter how rough, wet, or muddy it was. They were supposed to be unstoppable. Some of the vehicles were housed at CFB Petawawa, and they were taken out of the garage regularly for testing. There was one small hill on the obstacle course that the local geese frequented. It was always covered in feces, which made it so slippery that no matter how hard the soldiers tried, the new artillery vehicles could not get up the hill. Thus a very capital intensive project was undermined by the droppings of the humble Canadian goose. Similar things seem to be happening on the Minden River Walk.

For years a committee of local citizens has campaigned to create a pleasant path along the peaceful banks of the Gull River in Minden. The project has been progressing by leaps and bounds lately, with more and more of the path being built each year. A series of lights was even installed earlier this summer. Despite all of the progress made, the River Walk is being jeopardized by goose feces. There is so much of it on the path that it is barely traversable. It is a minefield of feces, which has most pedestrians walking on the shoulder of Invergordon Avenue, instead of on the River Walk.

Laura Cunliffe is a Minden Hills official and a member of the River Walk Committee, and she recognizes the feces problem. "I've seen the geese on there, and I know that it's pretty bad. The parks department and the township maintain the walk, so to speak. We know there is a goose issue," she said. "We thought about growing the grass high along the river bank, which dissuades the geese because they're afraid of predators lurking in it. But we realized that people would complain, saying it looks bad. We also thought about introducing birds of prey, but can't let tourists see the hawks rip the geese to pieces, especially the baby ones."

"We also thought about introducing birds of prey, but can't let tourists see the hawks rip the geese to pieces, especially the baby ones."

Ron Gambell owns the Wild Orchid Bistro on Invergordon Avenue, which is located just across the street from the River Walk. "First of all, the River Walk is a wonderful, wonderful thing. It looks fabulous with the new lights. So many people use the trail. It's incredible," he said. "But I know that the geese can create a mess. They've even been on my back yard and left lots of feces on my driveway. I had to hose it all off, because it was pretty bad. I can understand people being upset about the mess the geese make on the River Walk. As I speak, I'm looking out the window, and I see about a dozen geese on the trail." Although Gambell is dismayed by the mess the geese make, he believes that there is a solution. "When the geese are in the water, they look very nice. People like to see them in the river, and they stop to take pictures. Humanely relocating them would be good option, but maybe something better could be done. The township has a truck with a big water tank that they use to water the gardens. Why don't they come early in the morning, and hose down the trail?"

Minden Hills Director of Community Services Rick Cox is partially responsible for the maintenance of the river walk. "I'm not sure what to do. We have no plan at the moment. We do recognize it as a concern though. The capital that went into the River Walk is great, but some of the operational details haven't been figured out, like goose management and snow removal. We recently had a U Links student draft a plan to deal with the geese. We're still evaluating the proposal. The suggestions are very expensive. Doing nothing is not an option. Goose mitigation hasn't made it through the budget though."

It does not appear as thought the goose feces problem will be quickly remedied. Until it is, people traversing the Minden River Walk will have to tread very carefully.■

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Dysart Council Accept Recommendations of the BIA

At their July meeting the Dysart et al Council considered recommendations made by the Haliburton Business Improvement Association (BIA) Executive Committee. Suggestions for enhancing the Municipality's website and removing newspaper boxes from Highland Street resulted in Council making a move on two of the BIA's recommendations.

Councillor Andrea Roberts reported that the BIA was recommending the removal of unsightly boxes owned by individual newspaper chains from the main street. She said, "The boxes may even discourage people from buying the newspapers from local businesses." Roberts referred to work being done on a streetscape design, saying that new boxes could be incorporated into that design should Council want to see them stay.

Reeve Murray Fearrey commented that Council was not in a position to control the newspaper boxes on private property but they could definitely ask that the boxes be removed from municipal property. Both Councillor Derek Knowles and Deputy Reeve Bill Davis agreed with the recommendation, with Davis commenting that this suggestion had been made in the past but hadn't been followed up. He suggested that the boxes even obstructed people from getting out of their cars.

Roberts suggested sending letters out to all of the newspaper companies involved (Globe and Mail, Sun, etc.) asking that the boxes be removed and Council passed a resolution confirming this suggestion.

According to Roberts the BIA also discussed the fact that Dysart's website 'needs work' and was recommending some design work. She said the BIA had suggested members of Council look at the www.mindenhills.ca as an excellent example of a municipal website. Roberts agreed that the site is a little outdated and needs revisiting and updated graphics.

Councillor Janis Parker said she had a huge portfolio of photos of Haliburton and offered them for use on the website.

Council accepted this recommendation as well and passed a resolution requesting quotations to enhance the website.■

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Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman

Olympic Plagues

Chinese officials appear to have been victorious in their Herculean effort to rid China's Olympic sailing venue of foul-smelling green algae that clogged about a third of the waterway over the past month. About 10,000 soldiers, working alongside local volunteers, had raced against time to scoop up the algae with shovels, rakes and their bare hands. Huge piles of the damp green microorganisms were dumped along the shore of Qingdao, a major resort city. Environmentalists say the algae grew to such a scale because of the sewage and agricultural waste that flows into the Yellow Sea. But Chinese officials downplayed the link to pollution, saying instead that this year's unusually large bloom was due to heavy rain and hot weather. Chinese Olympic officials could also face trouble on Beijing's western front from swarms of locusts that threaten to descend on the capital from Inner Mongolia.

Alaskan Blast

A handful of cattle ranchers who live on Alaska's Umnak Island were quickly evacuated as the island's Okmok volcano erupted with one of the mountain's most powerful explosions in recorded history. About 50 residents of a small native Aleut village appeared to be out of danger on the other side of the island from Okmok's crater. A plume of ash and sulfur dioxide soared 50,000 feet above the Aleutian Islands, with some of the debris falling on nearby Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. Okmok is a highly active volcano, producing eruptions about every 10 to 20 years since 1805. The current activity is more intense than the last three major eruptive events in 1945, 1958 and 1997, according to vulcanologists.

Devils Breed Early

A deadly facial cancer that has decimated Australia's Tasmanian Devil population is prompting surviving members of the species to breed at a much earlier age in order to produce offspring. The spreading epidemic of facial tumors has wiped out as much as 60 percent of the devil population, and the disease can often kill within months. Researchers from the University of Tasmania say that there has been a 16-fold increase in the number of animals breeding at the age of only one year. "Before the disease, the modal female began seasonal breeding at age 2 and produced a litter annually for three years, with ... death occurring in her fifth or sixth year," they wrote in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The team says females now generally have only one opportunity in their lives to breed, and may not survive long enough to rear that litter.

Climate Construction

One of Canada's most honored experts in atmospheric science is encouraging city planners across the Prairie provinces to modify building codes to accommodate a changing climate that is likely to bring more tornadoes and other severe storms. Gordon McBean told a gathering of municipal ministers in Halifax that global warming is bringing new challenges to protecting the population from catastrophic losses due to weather-related causes. "Unfortunately, all of our building codes in Canada are designed on the climate of the last 30 years, and even the climate of the last 10 years is different," he said. McBean says he is most concerned about the likely increase in twisters between Alberta and Manitoba, where new neighborhoods have popped up in recent decades.

Tropical Cyclones

Hurricane Bertha churned the Atlantic for a second week, lashing Bermuda with storm-force winds and heavy rains before losing force over cooler waters. The first hurricane of the 2008 Atlantic season knocked out power to around 7,500 homes, but the island escaped significant damage from the storm.

• Tropical Storm Kalmaegi drenched the Philippines' Luzon Island before slamming into northern Taiwan as a Category 2 typhoon.

• Hurricane Elida formed off Mexico's Pacific coast.

Earthquakes

A powerful earthquake near the Greek island of Rhodes killed one woman and was felt widely across the Mediterranean from southern Italy to Israel and Egypt.

• Earth movements were also felt in northwest Sumatra, the southern Philippines and northwest Pakistan.

A Real Pool Shark

Pre-dawn swimmers in one of the pools at a popular Sydney area beach were apparently unaware they were swimming laps with a 3-foot shark that had been washed into the pool overnight by a freak wave. "It's funny, though, because we have swimmers who come here at 6 a.m. every morning," said Cronulla Surf Lifesaving Club spokeswoman Robyn Cole. "It's still dark then and they mustn't have even noticed it was there." The shark appeared to be happily swimming up and down at one end of the pool before it was netted and released unharmed back into the Pacific Ocean.

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Minden Hills Getting Prettier Every Day

Rick Cox is a man on a mission. As Minden Hills' Director of Community Services, he wants people across the township to beautify their yards, and make Minden Hills a prettier place for all. And that's why he helped organize the second annual 'Every Yard Counts' program. This program is a partnership between the Minden and District Horticultural Society and the Township of Minden Hills, designed to encourage and recognize residents and businesses in the community who contribute to the beautification of the township.

"Everyone can contribute, and keep our community looking good," Cox said. "Even if you're no green thumb, by cleaning up litter in and near your yard, or planting a tree, you are doing your part."

The Every Yard Counts campaign began last year, and organizers deemed it a success. "Last year there were some great gardens, and now we're building towards next year's Sesquicentennial of Minden," Cox said. "We were very pleased with the participation last year," Cox said. "We had a lot of nominees from across Minden Hills, all the way up in Carnarvon and down Highway 35. Quite a few people got involved. I was impressed."

Although Every Yard Counts is being done primarily to enhance the beauty of the township, Cox believes that there are environmental benefits. "Planting trees in your yard, creating flowerbeds, or making rock gardens, can make things look beautiful and help the environment as well. Keeping your yard well maintained can be good for the environment, providing you don't use a lot of herbicides or pesticides."

In addition to the publicity campaign, nominations were accepted this year for the Every Yard Counts Awards of Merit. Residents were encouraged to nominate people or businesses for having exceptionally neat or beautiful yards. Awards will be given in residential, commercial, and neighborhood categories. The Horticultural Society is judging the nominees in all three categories.

"Our judges are out, around the township inspecting the nominees' gardens. They're looking for things like variety, originality, neatness, and colour combinations," said Horticultural President Barbara Millington. "People don't need to plant a gigantic flower garden or something like that. Just keeping their yard neat and clean is good, or planting a little garden by the front door. That gives pleasures to both the owner and those who pass by."

According to Cox, there are 10 simple things that people can do to improve the look of their yard. These include cleaning up litter on and near your property, planting flowerbeds or place containers of flowers, removing weeds, planting trees and shrubs to improve yard appeal, using native species, edging the grass, hanging flower baskets, keeping the lawn well maintained and weed free, adding birdbaths and/or bird feeders, maintaining flowerbeds so they are attractive and free of weeds, and helping your neighbours with their yards.

"People who have the time, and want to go the extra yard, can really help out. If you see garbage in the ditches, or the road, pick it up. Get it in the landfill where it belongs," Cox said.

An area of particular concern to Cox is cigarette butts. "People always throw them out of their cars, and they end up on the roads, sidewalks, ditches, and yards. In the summer this is a real fire hazard. It's pretty gross, and bad for the environment. If we could get people to stop throwing out their cigarette butts it would be a big step in the right direction. We want the township of Minden Hills to be attractive to both residents and visitors. It's important to look welcoming"

The Horticultural judges will continue to appraise the nominees for the next few days. Winners will be declared soon, and listed in an upcoming issue of the Voice.■

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Boshkung Lake Tables Lake Plan Motion, Expresses Concerns over Airport Expansion

Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

Boshkung Lake Property Owners Hold 65th AGM

Perhaps one of the most intriguing aspects of the garden-variety cottage association rests in its summer-centric existence. Interesting, because cottagers are ratepayers, but only seldom do they have an opportunity to attend council meetings.

Summer residents attempt to pack a year of vacationing into eight or nine weekends of summer. Attendance at council meetings ranks very low on their list of priorities. And rural councils often table planning and the larger decisions for fall and winter for exactly the same reason. (By comparison, provinces and the feds cancel summer agendas entirely.)

Fascinating, because councils at times enact overarching land use bylaws, which may place a perceived onus upon property and residences owned by summer cottagers. Sometimes these variances, bylaws and land use issues are passed in the fall, winter or spring, periods when casual summer residents are away from their lakefront homes. This can lead to misunderstandings and a perception, real or imagined, that their local council may be harboring an agenda vis-à-vis summer residents.

Granted, most of the local cottage associations do maintain a small percentage of permanent residents, but generally, cottagers arrive just before black fly season and are usually gone just as the mosquitoes succumb to autumn's whim.

The broad spectrum of municipal inclusion was brought to the table last Saturday at the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Boshkung Lake Property Owners Association (BLPOA). The 90-minute meeting was held at the Stanhope Fire Hall annex and was attended by approximately 60 members.

One of the controversial projects involves the proposed expansion of the Haliburton/Stanhope Municipal Airport. An article in the BLPOA spring newsletter, The Informer, maintained that there are still several divisive issues that need to be addressed. Specific concerns, addressed by The Informer revolve around the "risk of increased taxes to ratepayers; the potential disruption of tranquility; and possible environmental damage."

BLPOA President Michael Smith welcomed the cottagers to the meeting and also delivered the keynote speech, standing in for scheduled speaker Lorne Mitchell - the Township of Algonquin Highlands Clerk-Administrator - who was forced to bow out for personal reasons. Smith did say that Mitchell had been invited to speak at the summer AGM in part to address concerns over the airport expansion.

The next meeting regarding airport planning is slated for September 20th at the Stanhope Fire Hall. Smith said that all BLPOA members interested in providing their input into expansion should make time to attend the September meeting. The article in The Informer intimated that tranquility concerns probably ranked highest in the hierarchy of cottager apprehension regarding the Stanhope Airport development.

"There is no doubt that tranquil surroundings are a significant reason we choose to live and cottage on Boshkung Lake," states The Informer. The article goes on to say that while there is a significant distance buffer between Boshkung and the Stanhope airport, the same could not be said for the cottagers and residents on Cameron, Maple and Green Lakes. "I think we owe those folks at least moral support in ensuring the township does its due diligence with a third party to evaluate the impact to their cottage experience."

In his keynote address Smith delineated some results gleaned from a meeting held in early June at the Minden. The meeting involved all of the Lake Associations in Haliburton County and Smith said it was designed to "address common concerns and open the lines of communication."

He told the BLPOA members that many of the cottage associations who attended the meeting had initiated or were looking into the development of a lake plan.

"A lake plan allows the members of the lake association to get together to define acceptable uses on the lake and also defines what is acceptable and what is not," said Smith.

Interestingly, the lake plan discussion dovetailed very nicely with the prior discussion about viable input to the municipal council. Smith explained that a comprehensive lake plan would serve as a buffer, providing cottager input through the use of a comprehensive list of values and principles, which Council would be obliged to consult before issuing land use permits. "If someone wants to pass something by council that does not correspond to the lake plan, Council would have to consider that in assessing the motion," said Smith.

"The question is, does Boshkung want a lake plan?" said Smith. He allowed that the lake plans are generally quite expensive. He did mention that costs could be offset somewhat by approaching other lakes for templates and blueprints. He added that lake plan costs could run to six figures, an amount that far outstrips the prudent reserve of $10,000 currently held by the BLPOA.

Smith said that if the membership agreed to the initiation of a lake plan, members would have to pony up with additional funds to accommodate the costs involved. He said that the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) had been instrumental in supplying their member cottage associations with blueprints for the initiation of lake plans and strategies for implementation of sustainable development. He said that FOCA templates could serve to defray some of the costs involved. The BLPOA used to belong to FOCA but decided to drop out of the organization several years ago.

Smith broached the subject of a return to FOCA and that prompted a lively discussion. Several members said that FOCA had not offered substantive benefits in the past and expressed doubts that anything had changed.

The membership agreed to table a vote on FOCA membership for a later date. Smith said that he would continue to look into feasibility and cost factors regarding lake plan development in the coming year.

Smith did say that the June meeting was eye-opening, because it also presented the possibility of the formation of a comprehensive union of cottage associations, which would offer significant clout in negotiations with municipal, provincial and federal governments.

In other AGM news, Lake Steward Barry Hicks said that although there had been E. coli-related beach closings in some of the surrounding lakes, overall, the quality on Boshkung was well within accepted limits. Both Hicks and Vice President Sue Yallop said that there had been complaints about wake boarding boats kicking up wakes on the shorelines. "We just suggest that you keep the wake boarding out in the middle of the lake and away from the shoreline," said Yallop.

In another piece of housekeeping, all of the Directors and the executive members of the BLPOA resigned and were then immediately re-elected in a unanimous ballot. Smith retained his presidency for the upcoming year.

Treasurer Doug Rumble reported that the BLPOA was in great shape financially carrying over a balance of $10,600. Tom Steele, Director of Memberships, reported that approximately 70 percent of property owners had paid BLPOA membership dues.

The Annual Regatta is scheduled for August 2nd and the Golf Tournament and BBQ is slated for August 16th at the Lakeside Golf Club. ■

MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST

TENDERS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST

Tenders will be accepted for the following work:

1.) **Tender Number 2008-05**
Wilberforce Arena
Repair roof on arena in Wilberforce to have a six inch overhang on steel portion. Steel to conform to existing.

2.) **Tender Number 2008-06**
Highland Grove Community Centre
Replacement of the insulated, steel door and frame. Door to be equipped with panic bar and door closer with all trim and weather stripping.

3.) **Tender Number 2008-07**
Monmouth Curling Rink
Replacement of the insulated, steel door and frame. Door to be equipped with panic bar and door closer with all trim and weather stripping.

4.) **Tender Number 2008-08**
Monmouth Curling Rink
Replacement of the wall in the basement of the curling rink.

5.) **Tender Number 2008-09**
Cardiff Community Centre
Remove paneling and install fire proof drywall. Drywall to be primed and painted to customer color.

Information on the above can be obtained by contacting the Environmental/ Property Supervisor during regular office hours.

Closing date is August 6th, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Sealed tenders will be received at the address shown below and must be clearly identified specific to each corresponding Tender Number.

Tender documents will be opened on August 12th at the Highlands East Council Meeting.

Successful candidate must provide copy of liability insurance and proof of WSIB coverage.

The lowest or any bid is not necessarily accepted.

Glen S. Covert
Environmental/ Property Supervisor
P.O Box 160, Monck Road
CARDIFF, ON K0L 1M0
Phone: (613) 339-2442

St. James Anglican Church

Historic Kinmount Community Cornerstone Struggling to Increase Congregation

by George Farrell

In 1882 work began on St James Anglican Church in Kinmount. Built of local material the wood was cut and sawn by local men who gave freely of their time and money in order to finish construction. The women furnished the interior, provided the communion vessels and the liturgical hangings. The church was consecrated by Archbishop Sweetman on August 31, 1893.

"St. James is a pristine and historic site in the village of Kinmount that has been lovingly cared for and well maintained for the past 125 years. It has continuously served people of the Kinmount area throughout those years in the Christian traditions of inclusiveness and respect for all.

Today we struggle as a congregation. Our numbers are few and those of us who have served so tirelessly over the years are now older and less able to meet the demands of our changing world. We have diligently and proudly maintained St. James in the service of our community against the mounting threat of closure and amalgamation into other more distant communities."

So began the one page flyer which Joyce Hills shows to me, and which represents a St. James plea to the community for "a younger invigorated generation to step up and accept the mantle of responsibility for the continuance of our community."

Joyce is one of those older members who has worked tirelessly over the years, only to see the congregation dwindle with changing times. Unfortunately, for many churchgoers, the state of local affairs pretty much mirrors what has been going on provincially and nationally. A random internet search revealed the following:

Membership in mainline churches is steadily declining. Organic churches are on the rise with people trading sanctuaries for living rooms. Even online faith communities are growing.

North America is the only continent where Christianity is not growing.

And one thing is certain: religion and spirituality have set up camp in the most prosaic and unexpected places. Canada is no longer a nation of churchgoers. Attendance at religious institutions—the old-fashioned kind, with altars and steeples—is in decline, even as many organizations launch outreach efforts to win back former members. Yet, as a major new VisionTV Time poll suggests, we are still a nation of believers, but believers who are more likely to follow our own script than to follow Scripture.

Joyce Hills, of course, is well aware of these trends and changes. She and her 15-member congregation are struggling against the tide. They're determined to turn things around.

Joyce, who retired to 1979 with her late husband Ernest John, bought 100 acres outside Kinmount, shortly after their retirement, and happily settled there. "We met Ian Scott (father of MPP Laurie), on the street of Kinmount one day, and he asked us, 'who are you?'" Joyce recalls. "And he got us involved in the fair and the Church. I started coming regularly, and they had a good congregation. On Christmas Eve you couldn't get a seat in those days. There were all denominations coming for the midnight service. For Sunday services the church was always at least three-quarters full, with 30–40 members. Some of the old family names who attended were the Phillips, Andersons, Austin, Scott, Killey, Stata, Schell, Crego, Burton, Owens, and Hyams. Ken Hyams was the organist."

"When I came, we were a three-point parish," Joyce continues. "We were the 'mother church' to other churches in Ironsides and Burnt River. When some of the older family members started to die, the younger family members were not coming to due to a general decline in church-going during the 1980s. Other people moved away because it was hard to get jobs locally. There was also a 'breakdown in traditional family values' that surprisingly statistics show traditional families attend church much more regularly."

Sadly for St. James Anglican, Joyce says that "now there are only 15 members and three of them live outside the area and attend seasonally. We get 10 or less out for a service now." Furthermore, St. James is no longer the "mother church" of its own three point parish, but is now connected with St Paul's of Minden which is the "mother church" and St Peter's of Maple Lake. "We've just finished the roof and we got a new furnace five years ago, but there are too few people doing too much of the work. It's getting more and more difficult to meet our financial obligations in the three-point parish." A parish is responsible for an allowance which helps to pay the minister and to cover additional expenses.

Joyce Hills relates that "people who go south are still contributing, and we also give once a month to the food bank and every summer we contribute to Faith works [or international relief organizations], and the Primates World Relief Fund. We're finding though, that with a very small congregation we just can't keep up with everything. If we can't get more members we stand the risk of closing the church, which would then be put up for sale. We've talked about going in alone and sharing the premises." She says unhappily. Then brightening somewhat she relates that "the United Church in Kinmount went on their own and are now going great guns due to a successful recruitment campaign, and help from head office."

Perhaps buoyed by the United Church success, Joyce states that, "we've started a campaign to try to endear new members for the congregation by sending out our two-page flyer to everyone in Kinmount and the surrounding area."

Due to the diligent work of people like Joyce and the congregation, the church and grounds are in good shape. "We can go for a couple of more years, but we really need to get more people," she says. "To turn the church

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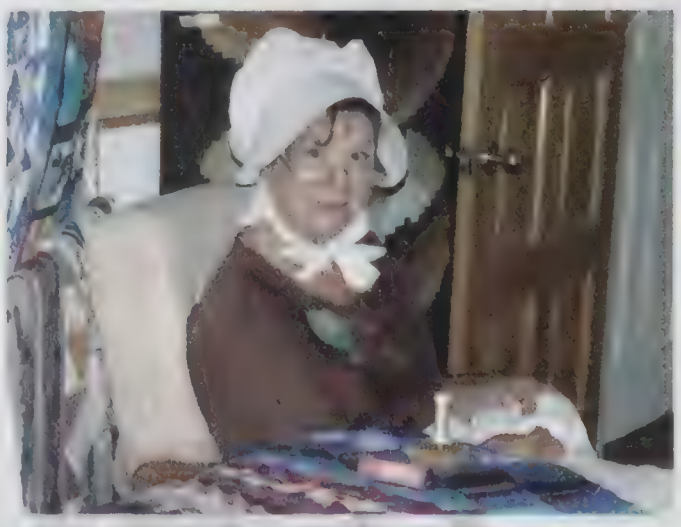
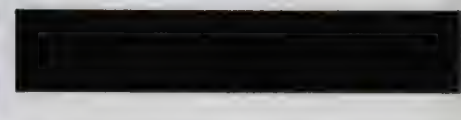
Stanhope Heritage Day



Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter



Stanhope Heritage Day Thrives under Blue Skies

Over 300 Attend Annual Heritage Day Events

Stanhope Heritage Day celebrates anachronism. The displays hearken a past rife with ingenuity and invention. A settler's life woven with tatted precision into the fabric of this celebration of history.

Paintings of old heritage buildings, the prevailing smell of smoke emanating from the Beverley Forge, kids banging away on slices of soft metal at the tin smithy's display, the crafted handiwork of the wood carver, and the superseding notion that while we may pine for simpler times, we remain intrinsically mired in the trough of today's small indulgences.

In one corner of the park two cell phones burp and chime to life; in another quiet spot, a visitor is sending an email via Blackberry; and in the shade of a display tent, a certain sports editor is acquiring an update on Greg Norman and the British Open golf tourney.

The entertainers are plugged into mikes and amps. Nary an outhouse adorns vintage, pastoral grounds.

Midst this celebration of time past, one overriding theme seems to prevail as people inspect the displays of an antediluvian age.

To wit: Our great grandmas and granddads may have lived simply, but life was never simple.

We've come a long way from the handloom, stovetop soap, the billowing forge, slow-tapped maple syrup, and the old hand-cranked washing machine and wringer dryer.

And, um, on that latter note, apparently we are unanimously exultant that technology has delivered us from that patriarchal wood-barreled washday duet.

More than any other display at the Heritage Day event, held last Saturday at the Stanhope fair grounds, the old 'Maple Maytag Combo' elicited top numbers on the 'ugh' scale. The five-second trek downstairs to the utility room and the always dreaded specter of "laundry day" was looking pretty sweet to Stanhope Heritage Day visitors when parlayed against the bleak tableau presented by the iron crank on the side of a huge slatted wash tub.

"My god, I couldn't imagine doing my laundry with that," said one smiling Heritage Day visitor with three kids in tow.

Ah, yes, while it's nice to celebrate the past, we remain, at the same time, stolidly clamped to today's technology tonic. And perhaps, an event like Heritage Day serves to shake the patina of smugness from our narrow and cynical facade.

Certainly is does impose an indelible and abiding respect for hardships endured and sheer pluck exhibited by our ancestors.

And, in the end, that's probably what attracted so many visitors to the annual Heritage Day event. A chance to glimpse glimmering smudges of our past; a backward glance lending perspective to the moment.

Organizer Lee MacLean reported that well over 300 people had purchased buttons to the event.

"It's been very successful and we're happy with the turnout," said MacLean, adding that a woodcarver, historic building artist and soap maker had been added to the set piece of displays this year. "We're always trying to add new events or displays," said Maclean.

Gord Kidd, Ric Pringle and Laurie Perry were on hand to provide a rocking country music vibe. They were spelled between sets by jazz duo, Zoe Chilco and John Deehan. Canoe FM DJs Greg Roe and Malcolm MacLean set up with a two-hour live feed from 11 to 1 pm.

The displays and demonstrations form the backbone of Stanhope Heritage Day, but, as one might expect, with all of the children in attendance, the animals eventually and inevitably stole the show. Part of the heritage Day lineup included a kids' specific presentation by the Muskoka Wildlife Center and Family Park.

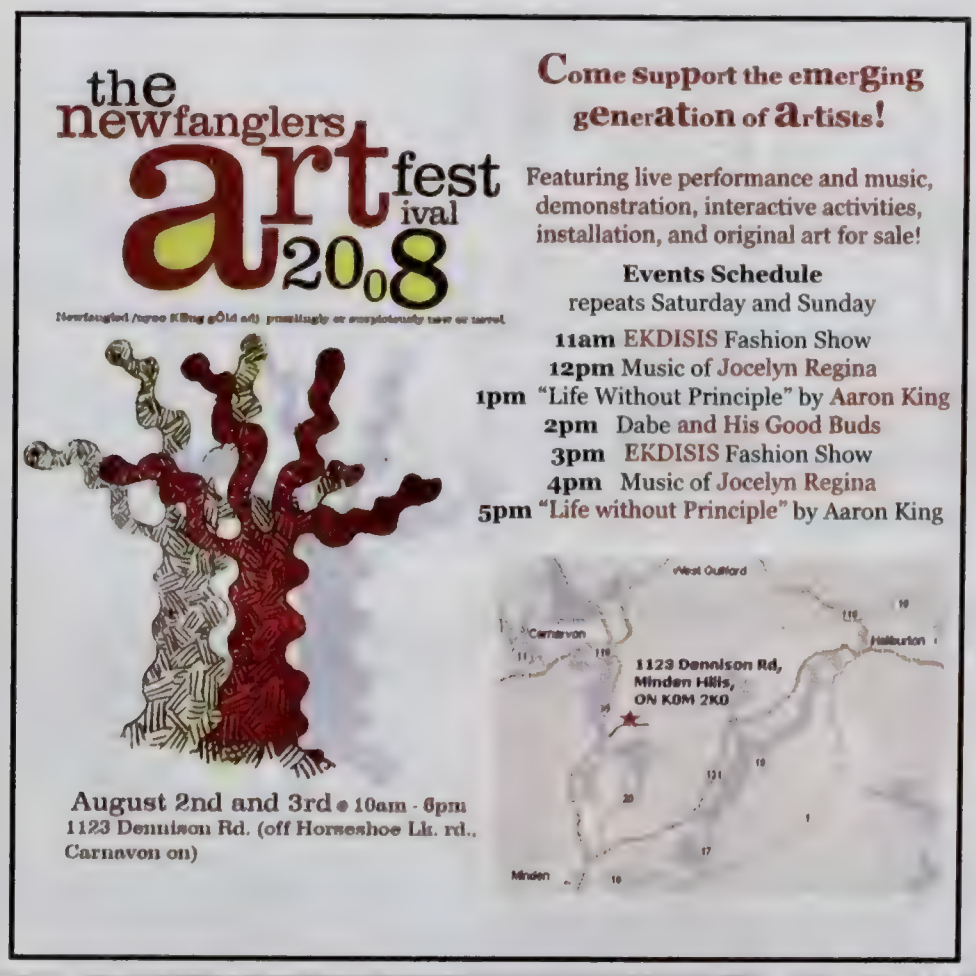
Junie the Racoon, Kingston the Black Rat Snake and Aroma the Skunk were introduced to the crowd, to the delight and pleasure of the packed assembly of kids and adults who crowded around the display area.

Muskoka Wildlife Center interpreters Nick Rensink and Becki Dickey allowed the kids to interact and mingle with Junie, Kingston and Aroma during the course of their 90-minute presentation. Rensink provided a very thorough and ongoing commentary and the kids were enthralled as Becki allowed the audience members to interact with the wildlife.

And that's what makes this Heritage Day so appealing. Most of the displays are interactive and crowd-friendly. Visitors are urged to bang away at tin, try their hand on the rails of a loom or stir some simmering soap.

"Everyone seems to be having a great time," said MacLean, surveying the brimming fairgrounds.

And why not? Heritage Day serves to put things in perspective. Now if we could just reckon a way to block that 5-bar cell phone signal from infringing on the mood.■



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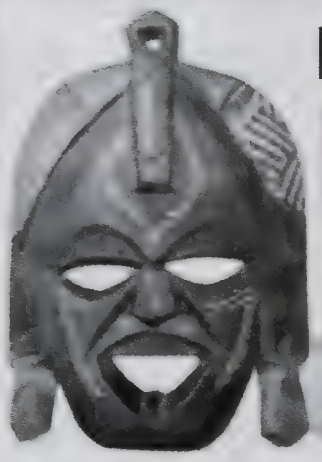

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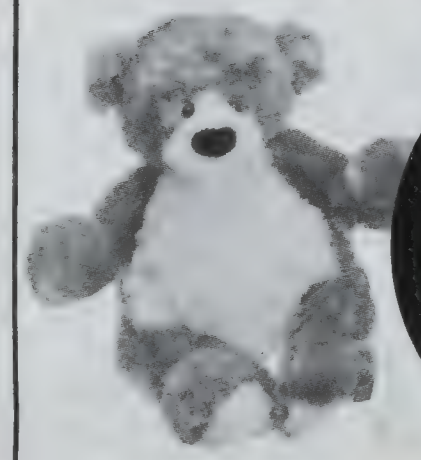

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August 1, 2008

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FOODLAND

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Dusk Dances Transform Head Lake Park into Outdoor Stage

Vibrant Entertainment in Haliburton

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Hundreds descended on Head Lake Park in Haliburton for four evenings of Dusk Dances held from Thursday, July 17 – Sunday, July 20. This was the third year that the event made its way to Haliburton.

A total of five short dance pieces were performed during this year's festival including "The Campfire", performed by 18 local dancers with the Haliburton Dance Arts group. Choreographed by Haliburton's Terri Matthews and Carrie Oke, this piece was about a few young men who set out to impress some 'high maintenance' young women just as their bonfire begins to get out of control.

"This is a really entertaining, fun, comical and contemporary piece," said Matthews on the opening night. "We were working on this performance for two months," she said.

This year marked the 14th season of Dusk Dances in Toronto and it was also the final year of the three-year province-wide touring initiative. This season's festival is on tour until August 11, with performances in Chatham, Kingston, Toronto, Haliburton, Manitoulin Island and Deep River. One choreographer per town has been commissioned to create a new dance piece on a group of local young people.

In addition to the featured performances each evening, a workshop on Latin dance titled 'Havana Nights: Ballroom Essentials", was offered to the public by dance instructor and Dusk Dances member Zhenya Cerneacov.

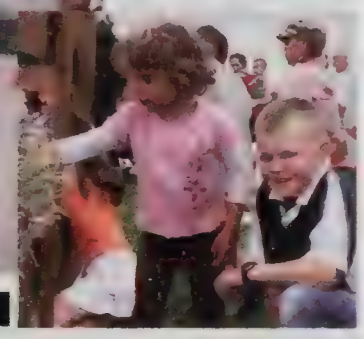
Dusk Dances in Haliburton are co-produced by Dusk Dances Inc. and Haliburton Sculpture Forest, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing understanding and appreciation of the arts through the development of public art and the engagement of artists with the community. The event received funding from Ontario's Trillium Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.

Entry to the event was on a "pay what you can" basis.

Sylvie Bouchard, creator of Dusk Dances, says that Haliburton was a "wonderful" place to come to on the tour.

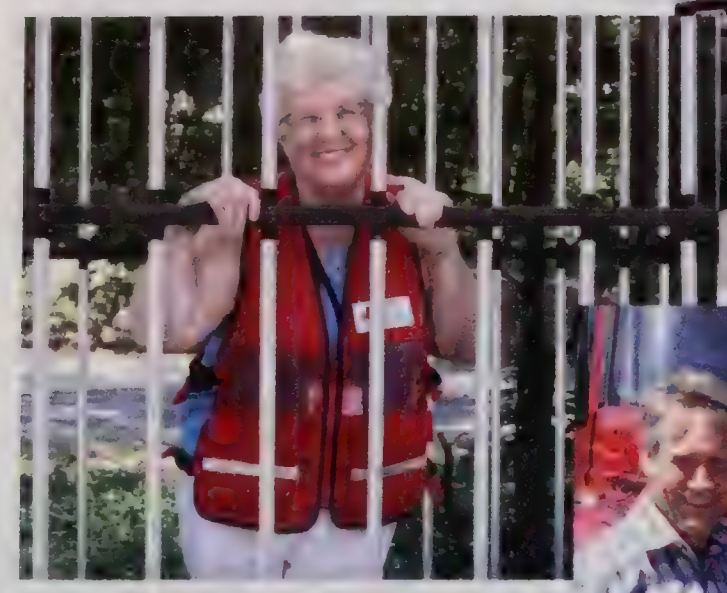
"It's very, very exciting for us to come here. It's the perfect park, a perfect community and the public is great. The sites here are beautiful," said Bouchard on the final night of performances at the park.

To learn more about the history of Dusk Dances and to see where they'll be having future performances visit www.duskdances.ca. ■



Bringing Emergency Services to the Forefront

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter



Dorset Community Policing Committee Hosts Educational Event

An Antique cars collection, fire-trucks, the canine unit and the "jaws of life" were just some of the attractions that were all part of the third annual Emergency Awareness Day held at the Dorset Ball Diamond on Saturday, July 19.

Approximately 700 people flowed through the entertaining event that brought out members of many of the emergency services available in the community and the province including: Crime Stoppers, the O.P.P. Provincial Emergency Response Team (PERT), the Blue Knights motorcycle club and local firefighters.

To show their support of the annual event, Laurie Scott, MPP of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, Huntsville Mayor Claude Doughty and Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka were all in attendance.

Cam Wooley, O.P.P Sergeant with the GTA Traffic Support Unit, was one of the special guests who could be seen schmoozing with those at the event and signing autographs for his fans. Woolley was formerly known as the "face of the O.P.P" and he is often in the media informing the public about bad drivers and unsafe vehicles.

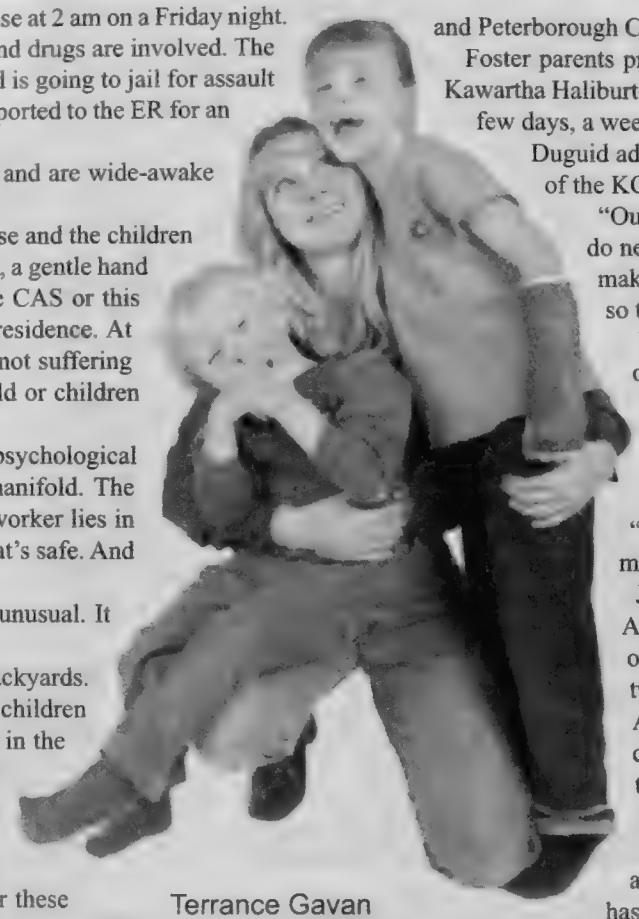
"I've been to lots of these around the province and I think it's a great idea, especially here because the community is so involved. In a community like this, people depend on each other to watch for fires, storms and other hazards. It's often the community that is first to the scene," said Woolley. "The great thing about this event is that you get some ideas on how to recognize danger and how to deal with it if things do happen."

"I've worked with a super group of volunteers to put this on. I couldn't have done it all myself," said Marlene Shortreed, head organizer and Chair of the Dorset Community Policing Committee. "This is about making the public aware of the emergency equipment that is available to them. Every year we do it we reach new people," added Shortreed.

If you'd like to become involved with the Dorset Community Policing Committee contact Marlene at 705 766-2409. ■

Foster Parents and Alternative Housing Options For Kids at Risk

CAS Seeks to Spread the Word about Foster Care Opportunities



Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

Sometimes the scenarios are bleak. Police are called to a house at 2 am on a Friday night. A domestic dispute is in progress. It has escalated. Alcohol and drugs are involved. The husband has previously been named in a restraining order and is going to jail for assault and breach of a court order. The wife is injured, must be transported to the ER for an appraisal, and she also faces drug charges.

Three children, ages 3, 5 and 8-years-old are in the house and are wide-awake when the paramedics and OPP arrive on scene.

A Children's Aid Society (CAS) worker is called to the house and the children at risk must then be assessed and provided with nurturing care, a gentle hand and shelter. The children may already be registered with the CAS or this may be the first time a CAS worker has been called to the residence. At any rate, the CAS worker must first ensure that the kids are not suffering physically. And then the worker must locate care for the child or children involved.

As always in these cases it's the child who suffers. The psychological ramifications of this midnight upheaval are manifest and manifold. The trauma can be dealt with later, but the priority for the CAS worker lies in finding these kids safe haven. A place that's warm. A place that's safe. And a place that will help them cope through this upheaval.

This may sound a little extraordinary, but it's not all that unusual. It plays out like a time-crumpled melody.

We like to think that these events do not play out in our backyards. But, truth is, they do. And when the fireworks begin, the children suffer. Oh, the parents may face charges, may show remorse in the morning, but the simple fact remains that the children are the ones who suffer the psychological trauma as these scenarios roll out to their inevitable curtain call.

And when the stuff hits the fan, at 2:30 on a Saturday morning, a safe place, a home, a haven must be available for these kids. Foster care families provide such emergency services and present an invaluable resource for the CAS. Of course, foster care can also entail long term placement and sometimes even leads to full time commitment, dependant upon the parental and foster situations.

Marion Duguid is a CAS supervisor stationed in Peterborough. She is in charge of foster care recruitment and services for the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KCHAS).

"The Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society is looking for families who would like to make a difference in the life of a teen or a baby," says Duguid. "We provide training and support to interested applicants. We need families in the City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton and Peterborough Counties."

Foster parents provide a temporary home for children who are in the care of the Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society. Children may need foster care for just a few days, a week, several months or possibly years.

Duguid adds that there is a dearth of foster homes available in the north end of the KCHAS catchment area.

"Our foster homes are spread throughout the counties but we really do need more homes in the northern areas," says Duguid. "The agency makes every effort to find homes that are in the home area of the child so that school, recreational activities, etcetera are not disrupted."

Duguid adds that fostering does not require an inordinate amount of expertise. The main and essential ingredient is a desire to nurture and care for the child or teen in care.

"We are specifically looking for folks who have a skill or interest in teens with special needs; willing to work with a teen on life skills and prepare them for independence," says Duguid. "At the same time, we need people who are willing to go the extra mile and are able to provide a home to a teen."

Jacqueline Brooks is the KCHAS Lindsay Permanency Officer and After Hours Supervisor based in Lindsay. She was named supervisor of the Haliburton office of the KCHAS recently and spends one or two days a week fulfilling her supervisory role in Haliburton. As After Hours supervisor she also works with on-call cases and must coordinate and liaise with workers sent out to emergency calls like the apocryphal case drawn out in the opening paragraphs of this piece.

"The greatest areas of need are foster homes for children under 5 and youth over the age of 12," says Brooks. "Currently the KHCAS has 323 children in its care; fifty-three of these children are under the age of five and 172 children are between the ages of 12 and 17," she adds. "Combined, these age groups make up 70 percent of our children in care. Our need far outweighs the available foster homes serving these age groups as we have 33 homes that care for children over the age of 14 and approximately 66 homes that care for children between the ages of 0 and 8."

Many factors combine to account for this shortfall in available housing. Duguid and Brooks both think that the problem can be rectified if people are apprised of the very real and urgent need for foster families; and the need for sympathetic families and caregivers willing to care for the disenfranchised kids who, through no fault of their own, are sometimes cut adrift from their own home situation.

So what is at the root of this shortfall in available foster homes?

"Foster parents throughout Ontario are an aging population," says Brooks. "Locally, over 75 percent of our foster parents are over the age of 40." And a northern presence remains a problem. "We have 172 approved foster homes within the KHCAS jurisdiction, only 12 of which are located in Haliburton County," says Brooks.

Duguid and Brooks suggest that any couples or families interested in exploring the rewarding opportunities available in foster care should visit the winning kids website located at fosteradoptwinningkids.com.

Brooks adds that there are many types of foster situations available. Fostering does not necessarily entail long-term commitment to child rearing.

Care programs run the gamut of niche situations. For instance, KCHAS Relief Foster Care may include specific respite periods for other foster parents or natural parents (vacation or weekends etc); Regular Foster Care which includes short term or longer term care; Specialized Foster Care for medically fragile or special needs children; Treatment Foster Care, a specialized program where foster parents deliver treatment in conjunction with a treatment team of professionals; and Receiving Foster Care where volunteer families are available to care immediately in emergencies and for periods up to 30 days.

"Foster parents provide a temporary or long term home for children or youth who may need foster care for just a few days, a few weeks, several months or possibly years," says Brooks.

An African proverb says that, "It takes a village to raise a child." Would it were so in North America. Who will put forth that outstretched hand to a child in need?

It starts with us. ■

People interested in learning more about foster parenting should visit the KCHAS website located at khcas.on.ca and click on foster homes.

MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST

TENDER FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST

A tender will be accepted for the following work:

Tender Number 2008-10
Cover Material for Landfill Disposal Sites

Supply and apply cover material required for four (4) landfill disposal sites throughout the Municipality of Highlands East.

Specifications for the above work can be obtained at the Municipal Office located in Wilberforce, Ward One Office located on Monck Road, Cardiff and the Ward Three Post Office located in Gooderham during regular office hours.

Closing date is August 6, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Sealed tenders will be received at the address shown below and must be **clearly identified** specific to the **Tender Number.**

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HHSC Stewardship Article Series

"Promoting and supporting the stewardship of private land natural resources in the Haliburton Highlands"

Canada's Forestry History: a Winding Path

A council member since 2004, Tyler Peet works as the forester at the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, Ltd. He is fascinated with the natural and social systems that make forests work.

As residents of the Haliburton Highlands, we tend to take forestry for granted. Perhaps it's because being surrounded by the natural world makes it easy to believe that forests and lakes are beyond the whims of human beings. But the evidence of past and current forestry operations surrounds us: trucks piled high with logs, pick-ups with fuel tanks mounted in the back, forests in various states of health. Some forests show signs of having been treated with care and respect; others give sad evidence of human greed and thoughtlessness.

The practice of forestry has changed through time every bit as much as the landscape around us. Prior to European contact, First Nations had a dramatic effect on forests. Management practices included burning large tracts of forest in order to encourage new growth that provided edible plants and attract browsing game. Forest management changed dramatically after European settlers arrived to Canada. "Sustainability" or "forest management" were concepts that did not exist during this time. The few rules enforced by Canada's fledgling government concerned the quality and size of timber cut. Only the best was taken and most eventually ended up as the property of Britain. Here in the Highlands, white pine was logged extremely heavily in order to satisfy the British navy's appetite for ship masts: some estimates put this species as having comprised upwards of 13-15% of the forest cover, a sad comparison to the 3-4% it makes up today

Following Confederation, Canada's first formal government realized the revenue potential of its forests and more complex legislation evolved. Minimum diameters for harvestable trees were set (similar to the tree bylaw used in the Haliburton Highlands today!) and any person- not just an agent of the Royal Navy- was allowed to bid for the right to harvest timber on public lands.

The late 19th to mid-20th centuries saw sweeping changes in how Canada dealt with its forests. A public outcry for conservation arose in response to forests that were visibly degraded. At the same time, a pulp and paper industry was being established that had enormous effect on the legislation of the time. Canada's first forest reserves were created during this period, as were long-term tenures that guaranteed timber supply to wood-processing facilities like saw and pulp mills. This period also saw the creation of Canada's first forestry institutions such as the first Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto in 1907 and the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers (later to become the Canadian Institute of Forestry) in 1908.

From the mid-20th century to the late 1980s, Canada adopted a more scientific approach to managing its forests. Assessments of public forests showed them to be drastically depleted and sustained-yield approaches (not cutting more than the annual growth a forest could produce) were instituted. The concept of sustained yield forestry treated the forest like an agricultural crop: it focused on growing good quality timber as quickly as possible and largely ignored the other values (e.g. wildlife habitat, social concerns) that the forest provided. It was during this period that the organizations and associations concerned with forestry began to emerge: several of the provinces developed professional forestry organizations and a council of provincial and federal policy makers evolved to become the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). Today, the CCFM still directs national forest policy and produces an annual "state of Canadian forests" report and regularly updated National Forest Strategies.

In 1987, the United Nations Brundtland Commission released a report (Our Common Future) that brought the world's social and environmental problems into sharp focus. This report recommended sustainable development; Canada embraced this concept and moved to sustainable forest management. In 1992, the CCFM announced a National Forest Strategy that focused on the sustainable management of entire forest ecosystems- not just the timber resource- as well as the communities that depended on healthy forest systems. This change is still reflected in the way we manage forests today. Ecosystem Based Management recognizes that lakes, forests and the wildlife that depend on them are inseparable from one another and uses a "big picture" approach to making management decisions.

Public and private lands are subject to ever greater pressures as human beings encroach on what for millennia has been relatively unoccupied space. As we look back through history, the greatest change in the way we manage our forests is that today we recognize how fragile they are and how intricately they are woven into the fabric of our society. We cannot separate forest health from the health of our communities, the economy or of the broader environment.

For more information on Canada's forestry history, visit the NRCAN link to the topic (http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca/articletopic/94). They say you can't know where you're going until you understand where you've been; we are entering a new era armed with lessons recent and old. As landowners we have a responsibility to look to the future and, to go beyond what is legislated by governments and to steer forestry's path in a direction that satisfies our economic, social and ecological values. ■

Minden Hills Crow Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

West Nile virus has officially been detected in Haliburton County. On July 21, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit lab reports confirmed that a dead crow picked up last week in Minden Hills died from West Nile. This is the first dead bird to test positive for West Nile virus in 2008 in Haliburton County, the City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County. Crows are tested for West Nile because they can commonly carry the virus, and are a good indicator of West Nile virus activity.

"We submit four crows from the Haliburton area for testing each week," says Anne Alexander, Director of Environmental Health with the HKPR District Health Unit. "This allows us to detect the virus."

West Nile virus is transmitted by the bite of mosquitoes, which get the virus by feeding on infected birds. While most people who get West Nile do not get sick, the virus can cause more serious symptoms. "Only about one in five people who get the disease get sick," Alexander said. "They experience flue like symptoms, and perhaps a skin rash. They may feel nauseous, really tired, and lethargic." Alexander added that fatalities are rare. "It's people with weak immune systems, or seniors that are at the greatest risk."

To fight the bite of mosquitoes, local residents should cover up when outside, especially between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. Applying federally-registered personal insect repellents on exposed skin is also recommended. When the weather permits, it is also good to wear long-sleeved shirts, jackets, long pants, hats and socks to provide further protection.

People should also clean up outside by removing standing water around their property where mosquitoes can breed. This includes tires, water barrels, plant pots, and wheel barrows. Local residents can also clean out dense bush and shrubbery where mosquitoes can rest

In 2007, the Health Unit had no positive findings for West Nile virus in birds it tested in its area. "There were infected birds found in Bancroft two or three years ago, and people were exposed to it there," Alexander said. "That's close enough to Haliburton County." ■

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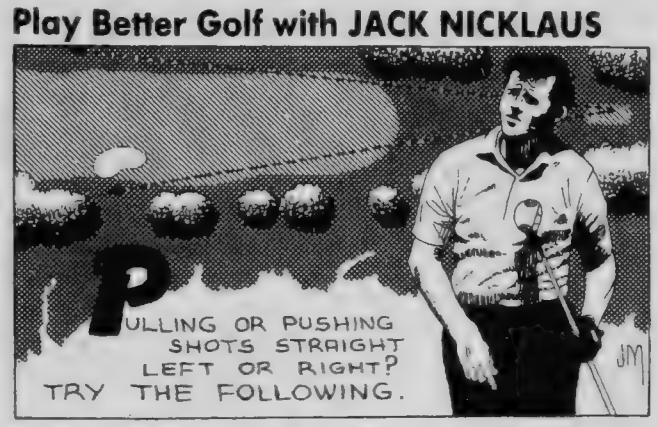

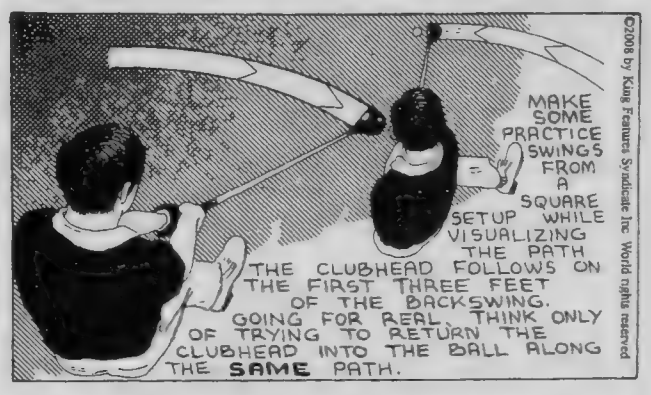

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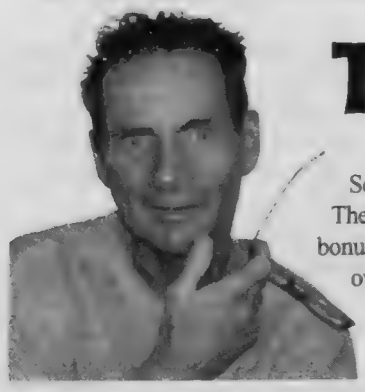


The Rehab of Mr. Josh Hamilton

Scouts still talk about Josh Hamilton then. The then was 1999. The then was when he received a record $3.96 million signing bonus from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays as the number one pick overall in June's 1999 baseball entry draft.

The scouts, who assessed this high school phenom out of Raleigh, North Carolina back in 1999, made no bones.

They compared Hamilton to George Brett. Some said Josh Hamilton was better. A goodly number of scouts who saw him play back then still say today that he's the best they ever saw.

We reward our heroes well today. The ability to see the backward rotation of seams on a 96 mph fastball is a gift imbued upon a select few. Ted Williams, that Splendid Splinter, could see things like that. Williams once hit 25 marked balls (seams were blackened with charcoal so the bat's imprint could be tracked) during a batting practice session. He called out the number of seams he struck on each pitch. "One seam, two seams, two seams, one seam (and so on)," shouted Williams at every struck ball. He was right on 23 of the 25 pitched balls.

Josh Hamilton carries the same uncanny knack for bringing round bat to round ball. Josh Hamilton is blessed. Josh Hamilton has always been able to connect the dots. For that, like Mantle, DiMaggio, the Babe, Stargell, and Maris before him, Josh Hamilton was rewarded

The money was just part of it. There was also the fame. And the parties. And the temptation. And somewhere, a niggling notion that it was all coming too quickly. Too easily.

Sometimes all that praise, the prestige, and the money get in the way.

Sometimes fame takes an 18-year-old prospect into dark and narrow corridors.

Sometimes it warps values.

Sometimes demons emerge from the moiling depths of the River Styx.

And sometimes fame can take the blank sheet of a burgeoning career and shake it into fine shredded bits, like a terrier on a rat.

"There was even a night I thought about jumping off a building," Hamilton says softly. "I had nothing to live for. So I tried to give up. There were a lot of days like that," says Josh Hamilton, speaking today of a time in a not so distant past.

A terrible time. A time spent in the lethal throes of a hard-knock crack cocaine and alcohol addiction. A time he recalls today on his newly-acquired stage. A stage he toppled off nine years ago. "I let down so many people ... I really didn't think I deserved to live," says Hamilton. "I was actually more in control when I used drugs than drinking," he says. "When I drank, I was mean and angry. And after eight rehab centers, I also figured out that when I drank, that's when I started using drugs."

He drank himself out of the league and for two years fought his demons at rehabs and on the relapse circuit.

He did the full monty, Amy Winehouse schtick before finally appearing at his grandmother's door, asking for help and intervention. His Grandma, 75-year-old Mary Holt, told Josh to find god and get right with life. Then she told him to go home and hug his child. He followed orders and when he hugged that child and cradled her in his arms, close to his heart, something happened.

Grandma apparently knows best. "I wish we could get those drug dealers, put them on a boat, stuff them in bags, and throw them overboard in the ocean," says Granny Holt today. Two things we know for sure. Don't mess with Texas; And don't cross swords with Granny Holt.

Today, Josh Hamilton is back where he belongs, back in baseball.

In 2007 he signed on with the Cincinnati Reds as a $50,000 Rule Five acquisition and hit a dazzling .403 in spring training. This year he was traded to the Texas Rangers and rapidly hearkened all that high school promise, earning a spot on the 2008 AL All Star Team.

Two weeks before the All Star tilt, Hamilton and the Rangers made their first foray of the season to Yankee Stadium. Fans in the "friendly confines" greeted Hamilton with genuine bonhomie. Shouts of "Hamilton Smokes Crack" filtered through the crowd for every Hamilton at bat. Hamilton can chuckle now. He is dealing with the limelight differently today. He speaks of the struggle with the drugs and the booze. He talks freely. He tells his story, in the hope that it may make a difference in a life.

It has. It does. A man at Hamilton's All Star press conference steps to the mike during a Q and A. He doesn't have a question. He simply says that he is a recovering addict and thanks Hamilton for telling his story. He says, gently, that Hamilton's story made a difference. Helped him through another day. He urges Hamilton to continue his pilgrimage. The work.

Today, major league baseball is still buzzing about Josh Hamilton's record 28 homers in the first round of the home run derby held last Monday night (July 14th) at the 2008 All Star splash held at Yankee Stadium. And even though Hamilton went on to lose the home run derby to the crushing Canuck Justin Morneau, his bellowing long balls silenced even the most vehemently yappy Yankee yowlers on hand for Hamilton's dinger display. Yankee Stadium will fall to the wrecker's ball this fall. History will note that one Josh Hamilton notched first chinks and chunks on the crumbling foundation.

What's changed for Hamilton today? We need go no further than 71-year-old Clay Council of Cary, N.C. for an answer to that question.

The 28 dingers in the first round were hit off of Council who acted as Hamilton's pitcher for the duration of the Home Run Derby. Council is a volunteer coach who has thrown batting practice to local Raleigh area youngsters for decades, including Hamilton when he and his brother were growing up. "He never expected anything back from anybody," said Hamilton. "Probably never really got a lot of 'thank-yous' for doing it, either."

And so Hamilton had Council flown in for the derby. He felt he owed it to the old coach. A day in the sunshine. Hamilton is striving to give back today. To return gifts. To make amends.

There are sportswriters who still feel it's too soon to get all warm and fuzzy about Hamilton and his recovery.

"What if he slips, has a relapse … what then?" said Washington Post columnist and ESPN Pardon the Interruption host Michael Wilbon recently.

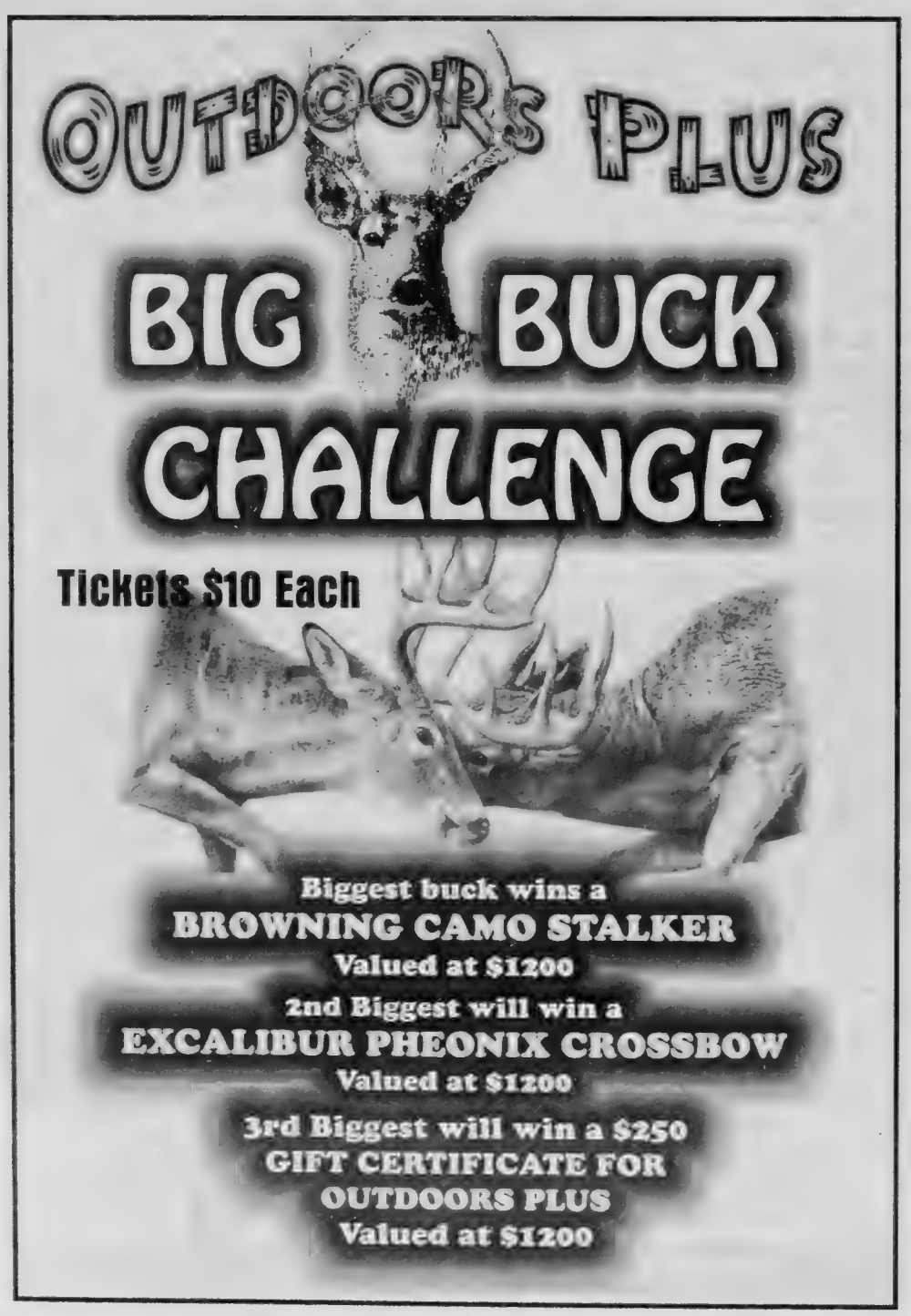
A staple pundit's ploy, but what's your point.

There are no givens in recovery. There are lessons. We learn from the yin and the yang, and the roil and the moil.

Only when we remove the stigma attached to the problem, can we deal with addiction on a universal level. Bring the solution to the masses and we bring hope to the masses.

Josh Hamilton's life is a cautionary tale. He says he's earned his spot on the dais because he's struggled hard against the demons to regain his spot in the pantheon. He remains a gifted hitter with a story to tell.

Thankfully, he's also blessed with the guts to tell it.■



South Lake AGM
Lake Stewardship Topic of Concern

Tyson Farrell
Staff Reporter

The old Gelert Hall was a beehive of activity last Saturday as the South Lake Association of Cottagers and Residents (SLACAR) hosted their annual general meeting. More than 40 people came out to discuss everything from lake stewardship to yard sales. The meeting was presided over by SLACAR treasurer Jane Leavis, President Gayle Rowett, and Secretary Tom Nicholson.

At the beginning of the meeting, the association presented three local philanthropic organizations with cheques worth $250. "We try to make donations each year to local charities or groups," said Tom Nicholson. "This year we've decided to make donations to the Haliburton Highland Grannies, Point in Time, and the Minden River Walk."

Haliburton Granny Mickey Bonham greatly appreciated the donation. "Our organization began a few years ago when Canadian United Nations Ambassador Stephen Lewis brought 200 African Grandmothers to meet with 200 Canadian grandmothers to talk about the HIV/AIDS crisis. Thank you so much for your donation. It's most kind of you."

The association then presented Marilou Mizzan of Point in Time with a cheque for $200. "At Point in Time, we operate the Haliburton County Summer Camp Fund. This helps to send local youth, that could not afford it otherwise, to local camps. We have sent 30 kids to camp this year, and we send different ones each year. I'd like to thank you so much for your donations," Mizzan said.

When the Minden River Walk committee was presented with a cheque representative Laura Cunliffe was delighted. "The River Walk started as a little group with a vision for an underutilized river with the help of HCDC," she said. "You're donation will really help us out."

The issue of association membership created some controversy at the meeting. Hospitality Inn was recently granted membership, but despite the fact that the Inn has 21 cottages on the lake, they were only granted one vote within the association. At the meeting members of the association spoke of how they managed to grant Hospitality Inn only one vote. They seemed to be unaware that a representative from Hospitality Inn was at the meeting, sitting in the back row. Inn Representative Brian Dalton said that, "We weren't aware that Hospitality only got one vote, despite our 21 cottages." Meeting organizers quickly assured Dalton that 'nothing was written in stone," and that they could 'meet later to arrange something."

An important part of the meeting was the discussion of lake stewardship. "We have more boats coming in and out of the lake now," said Lake Steward Kay Moore. "We're very concerned about water fleas. We're not overly concerned about zebra mussels because of the limestone in our lake which repels the mussels. The fleas eat all of the zoo plankton, which upsets the food chain. We need to wash our boats before we put them in our lake, or any other lake. We need to wash them extremely well and let them dry out. Also, we should be careful not to transport plants or firewood from different areas because they can carry invasive species."

Moore went on to discuss the results of various water samples taken during the previous year. "I took a water sample in the spring and sent it to the lab in Dorset. I also measure water clarity every two weeks. In my opinion, our lake is holding its own. It's doing just fine," she said. "I plan to do some e coli tests later in the summer, but I personally don't think that it's a problem. Three tests will be done in three different parts of the lake. I think that we're in good shape."

Following the stewardship presentation, details about SLACAR's annual yard sale, golf tournament, and corn roast were discussed.■

"That's baseball, kids. When you win, you eat ice cream. And when you lose, you watch the other team eat ice cream."

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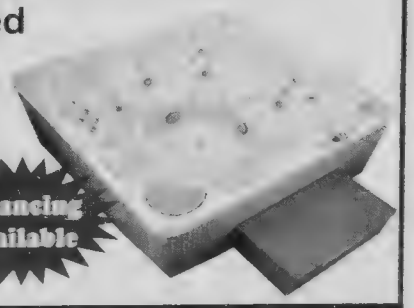

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The Dog Days of Summer

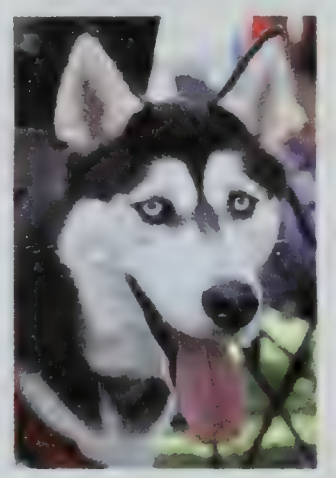
2nd Annual Wuffstock aids MEAC

Some good clean fun was had by all this past Saturday as Minden Emergency Animal Care (MEAC) held its second annual Wuffstock celebration. Dogs of all sizes and shapes were lovingly soaped and showered, while vehicles were de-mudded by the car wash crews.

This year there were a couple of new additions to Wuffstock . Silhouette Stable & Racing Rescue set up an agility course for visitors to try, and many a doggie cookie was required to get the "newbie" competitors over the jumps and through the chutes and tires.

While some owners were engrossed bribing Fido at the agility obstacles, others were attempting summer dog-sledding on a scooter pulled behind Carmen Hanak's husky, Pota. (One unidentified veterinarian-musher was observed disappearing into the distant bushes).

Due to the efforts of vet student and organizer Amy Brown, along with the MEAC staff, a crew of wonderful Wuffstock volunteers, generous business partners and supportive animal lovers, MEAC will be able to continue its work, and provide more "happy endings" for sick and injured animals.■



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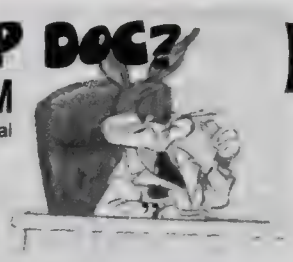

Don't Scratch That Itch!

"The dog smells like a swamp and … will roll in anything outside."

Once upon a time, there was a small flea living on a furry dog named Honey that had thousands and thousands of offspring one warm July in Haliburton County. The flea family covered the furry map. They spent time under the armpit, in the groin, around the tail and up the back, biting and taking blood meals when hungry. That one tiny flea and all her descendants caused great havoc to that furry map. Some would leave home and find another place to work, dropping their eggs in the back yard and jumping on an unsuspecting passing squirrel or neighbourhood cat. Others stayed in the house, and others just rested between meals on the dog.

Teeth chewed at their bite marks, nails scratched at the sites relentlessly and the areas they worked become very red, moist and painful. They started a virtual explosion of activity, opening the door for resident bacteria and yeast overgrowth. The landscape changed, the fur fell out, a lovely pink and red colour appeared, and small red dots with white centers were found popping up all over. Why do we see this over and over again? Because dogs like to scratch an itch.

All dogs scratch and lick themselves a bit, it is a dog thing to do. Sometimes they go overboard and cause a lot of skin damage. An itch is technically called pruritis and can be caused by many different underlying problems. Pruritis is a sensation of tingling that causes the dog to lick or rub or scratch or chew an area. Histamine released from cells cause the itch sensation and then the dogs start to self excoriate, causing skin damage. Pruritis is not the problem, just a sign of a problem. The underlying cause can be bug bites, fleas, allergies, skin mites (mange), bacteria or fungus (yeast) to name the common ones.

The treatment of the problem depends on the original underlying cause. Many animals are presented at the veterinary hospital with secondary or tertiary skin problems. They all need to be treated but the cause should be found and treated as well.

A dog with allergies gets an itch, scratches it and causes a break in the skin barrier allowing the normal bacteria on the skin to grow in great numbers causing a pyoderma or skin infection which if left untreated can allow a fungal infection to take hold as well.

By this time, the family cannot sleep for the noise of scratching at night. The dog smells like a swamp and is delegated to the outer room and he is so uncomfortable that he will roll in anything outside filling the coat with burs and dirt making him even less appealing as a family pet especially when he climbs up onto the sofa. The underlying problem is masked but the bigger problem still exists. These are not always easily treated and can require quite a lot of owner's time and effort.

Identifying the enemy is easy if the problem originates from a flea infestation. There are very few bugs that can jump like a flea. They are often accused of flying but they just jump. They are the most amazing critters and we would be in awe of them if they didn't cause so much trouble for our pets. They are small and brown, about 1/2 cm long. When you move the fur near the tail you can see them scurry away from you. Off the pet, they jump, boy do they jump, up to 6 feet. We do not even have to see a flea to know there is a flea infestation. We often find flea dirt and eggs, which we call salt and pepper as that is exactly what it looks like. If we find that in the fur, we know there are fleas hidden somewhere. You can get a flea comb (much like a lice comb) and comb through the fur under the neck and by the tail to find the little guys.

They spend their entire adult life on the pet. Adult fleas eat a blood meal, and females can deposit up to 50 eggs a day which fall all over your house and yard. The eggs hatch immediately when they feel vibrations and heat and jump on the next unsuspecting host. They prefer animals to people although people that are allergic or sensitive would argue that one. Hot spots in a yard with lots of eggs are places where flea infested animals like to hang out and drop eggs.

Fleas cause a lot more trouble than just skin problems. Fleas are the main transmitter of tapeworms in dogs and the second major cause in cats (second to eating rodents). The saliva from the flea causes dermatitis in susceptible animals. Large numbers of fleas in small and young puppies and kittens can cause severe anemia, and even death. So, they may be small, but they are not insignificant.

The war against fleas: external parasite control is very important and very easy to do with a once a month treatment. Preventative medicine always pays. Anti histamines can help reduce the histamine released that induces pruritis. Omega 3/6 fatty acids help reduce inflammation in the skin, making the dog more comfortable. Keeping the coat clean and dry will reduce bacterial overgrowth and treating the problem early is key. Of all the skin problems seen in dogs and cats today, fleas are the easiest to treat and prevent. Honey and her humans can sleep easy now with all the fleas and eggs marked as casualties of the war.■

MINDEN & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S
29TH ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

"LOVE BLOOMS"
Minden Community Centre
Friday, July 25th, 7 - 9 pm
Saturday July 26th, 10am - 4 pm
Visit the Marketplace
Admission $5 includes refreshments, & lots of prizes!!

2 SHOWS SIDE BY SIDE

Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild Quilt Show
"HEART OF THE HIGHLANDS"
Minden Curling Club
Friday, July 25th, 3 - 8 pm
Saturday July 26th, 9am - 4 pm
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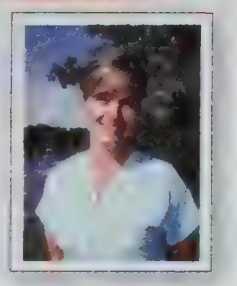

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ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: LIQUIDS
(e.g., What is the "universal solvent"? Answer: Water.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL
1. The proverb states that this is "thicker than water."
Answer_____
2. The watery substance produced in the mouths of humans.
Answer_____
3. The world's oldest and most popular alcoholic beverage.
Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL
4. What poison did Socrates drink?
Answer_____
5. What liquid would be contained in a nebuchadnezzar?
Answer_____
6. This beverage became popular after it was discovered in Ethiopia.
Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL
7. In common usage, ethanol is often referred to simply as ___.
Answer _____
8. What is the tonic in tonic water?
Answer_____
9. What alcoholic beverage is called "the Green Fairy"?
Answer_____ _

ANSWERS: 1. Blood. 2. Saliva. 3. Beer. 4. Hemlock. 5. Wine or champagne. 6. Coffee. 7. Alcohol. 8. Quinine. 9. Absinthe.

SCORING:
18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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FOR WEEK OF JULY 28,

Horoscopes
It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: While you love being the center of attention, your generous heart allows you to share the attention with others.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With new facts to work with, you should feel more confident in moving ahead. But continue to do so at an unhurried pace so you can spot details you might otherwise miss.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Taking on that new workplace project could be one of your smarter career moves. Expect a surprising show of support from someone who had always been a critic.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might feel you're too busy to undertake a new responsibility. But check it out before making any decisions. What you learn could persuade you to change your mind.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You feel quite content enjoying all the comforts of home right now. But the urge to travel grows stronger, and by week's end, you could begin packing your bags.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A hectic period begins to ease up, but that doesn't mean the Fine Feline can do much catnapping these days. You need to finish those old tasks and prepare for new ones.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Expect to get some good news about your financial situation by week's end. But it could still be too early to rush out with a long shopping list of things to buy.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your management skills make an impression on some workplace VIPs who might be looking for someone like you to take on an upcoming project. Good luck.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Meeting a former adversary might be unsettling at first. But time has softened hard feelings, and you could be on the brink of starting a new relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A troubling situation close to home might cause you to change your travel plans. But getting all the facts before you act might cause you to reconsider.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You might be quite alone right now in deciding to support a major workplace shift. But others will join you as new information supports your bold move.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A former co-worker returns with news that could persuade you to reassess recently made plans. Be sure to consult with a trusted colleague before you act.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your motives behind a recent decision could be called into question by a rival. But once you present the facts, all doubts will be resolved. Enjoy an arts-rich weekend.

Dear Abby
by Abigail Van Buren

I'm Not Old... It's Just A Bit of Grey

DEAR ABBY: I am 25, and over the last two years a patch of gray hair has appeared on the front of my head. It's small, but noticeable. The problem is, people constantly mention it to me, especially co-workers I barely know. At this point, I have chosen not to dye it because it doesn't really bother me. I just think it's rude for people to go out of their way to bring it up. I would never say something like that to someone else. What's the proper response to these people? – YOUNG MAN, OLD HAIR IN OHIO

DEAR YOUNG MAN: Smile and say, "Yes, I've noticed it. And sooner or later it will happen to you, too." Then change the subject.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Ernie," and I have been together almost a year. He has two wonderful children from a previous marriage. I love Ernie dearly, although we have only been dating for what seems like a short while. The other night he brought up the subject of marriage and said he wanted to get me a promise ring. I was caught off guard. I know his feelings were hurt when I shied away from him when he mentioned it. What should I say to him? I don't know if I'm ready for the next step, but I don't want to hurt his feelings by rejecting him. Give me the words, Abby. – APPREHENSIVE IN LOVE

DEAR APPREHENSIVE: Tell Ernie that although you care for him, you are not ready to make a lifetime commitment. And unless you are sure that you want to be married to Ernie (which you are not) and are prepared to help him raise his children, you should not accept his promise ring. It will then be up to Ernie to decide whether he wants to wait around, hoping you will change your mind, or move on and look for someone else.

If it's news - call us... 457-5001

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23 Mitch Miller hit
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27 Throw a line to
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32 Blazing
36 Most mammoth
37 Elegant
40 Pebbles' papa
41 — Leone
43 Black and white
44 Bing Crosby hit
46 Service member?
49 Tilden's opponent
51 Seize
52 Slip of the tongue
54 Tax shelter
55 Animated Olive
56 Proofreader's mark
58 Word with tea or pepper
59 Get more magazines
61 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"
62 Be — unto oneself
63 Tear to bits
64 Marry
65 Patti Page hit
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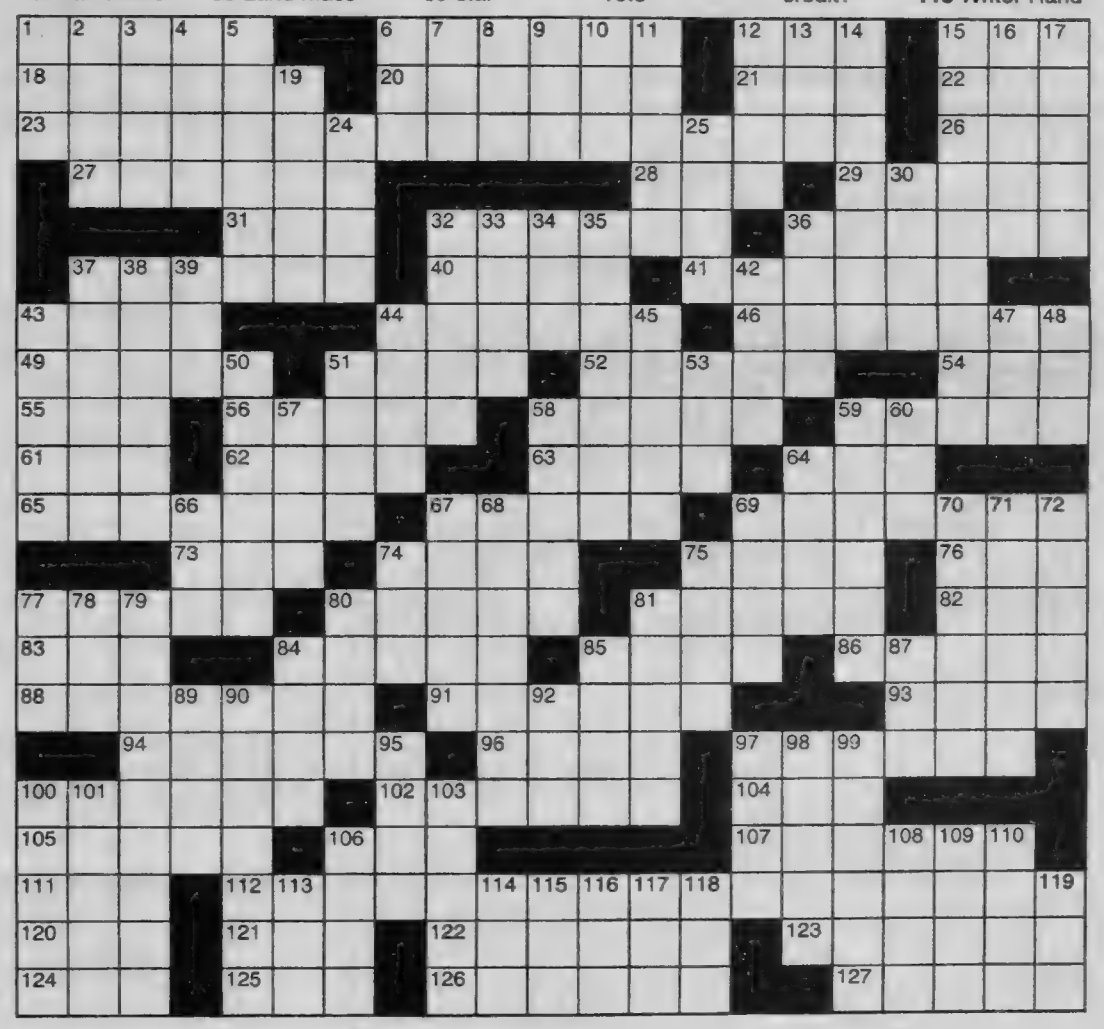
76 Word on a pump
77 Supped in style
80 Pasta ingredient
81 Government group
82 Winter hazard
83 TV's "Scooby- —"
84 Too experienced
85 Flip
86 Sri —
88 Land mass
91 Wilbert Harrison hit
93 Doesn't come clean
94 Daze
96 — Haven, CT
97 Exhausted
100 Enigmatic sort
102 Lost
104 Essen exclamation
105 Couldn't stand
106 First zoo?
107 Concerto —
111 Bachelor's last words
112 Gladys Knight hit
120 New Deal agcy.
121 — later date
122 Used a ewer
123 Through the nose
124 Cartoon cry
125 — de guerre
126 Beethoven's "Moonlight —"
127 Dutch artist Jan

DOWN
1 Cpl.'s superior
2 Bolger/Haley co-star
3 To — (perfectly)
4 Petite pooches
5 Builds
6 Paid player
7 Actor Ayres
8 Musical sensitivity
9 Past
10 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
11 Look like Hook?
12 Cash stash
13 Qty.
14 Blend
15 Mamas & Papas hit
16 "Golden Boy" dramatist
17 Dress part
19 Turns about
24 Portrait painter Peter
25 Is in debt
30 Taj town
32 G-sharp's keymate
33 Chow
34 Creepy Christopher
35 Stuck fast
36 Munich mister
37 Kindergarten item
38 Defeat
39 Affirmative vote
42 Sacred image
43 That's the spirit
44 Make tea
45 Worth or Papas
47 Prior to, to Prior
48 Damp and chilly
50 Cleaned a carp
51 Schwarzenegger's birthplace
53 Cabernet color
57 Voice type
58 It's run of the mill?
59 Nullify
60 Tokyo, once
64 Power unit
66 Wayfarer's whistle wetter
67 Stream
68 Earphones
69 Propel with a pole
70 Entertainer Kazan
71 Played soccer
72 Zones
74 Third degree?
75 Panel of peers
77 SHAEF commander
78 Letters of credit?
79 Johnny Horton hit
80 WWII unit
81 Dock of the bay
84 Put the whammy on
85 Galileo's birthplace
87 Heidi's hangout
89 Racer Luyendyk
90 Nocturnal visitor
92 Subway unit
95 Merit
97 It's a long story
98 Caustic
99 Conversation pieces?
100 Gleam
101 Clerical title
103 Excludes
106 Smith or Sandler
108 ER exclamation
109 Painful
110 Eye appreciatively
113 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
114 Sticky stuff
115 Savage sort
116 La-la lead-in
117 Asian holiday
118 Nutritional abbr.
119 Writer Rand



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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On July 24, 1956, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis perform their final comedy show together at New York's Copacabana Club. They made their first appearance in 1946 at a club in Atlantic City and were an instant hit, going on to make 16 movies together.

On July 25, 1894, actor Walter Brennan is born in Swampscott, Mass. Brennan became the first actor ever to win three Academy Awards, for "Come and Get It" (1936), "Kentucky" (1938) and "The Westerner" (1940.)

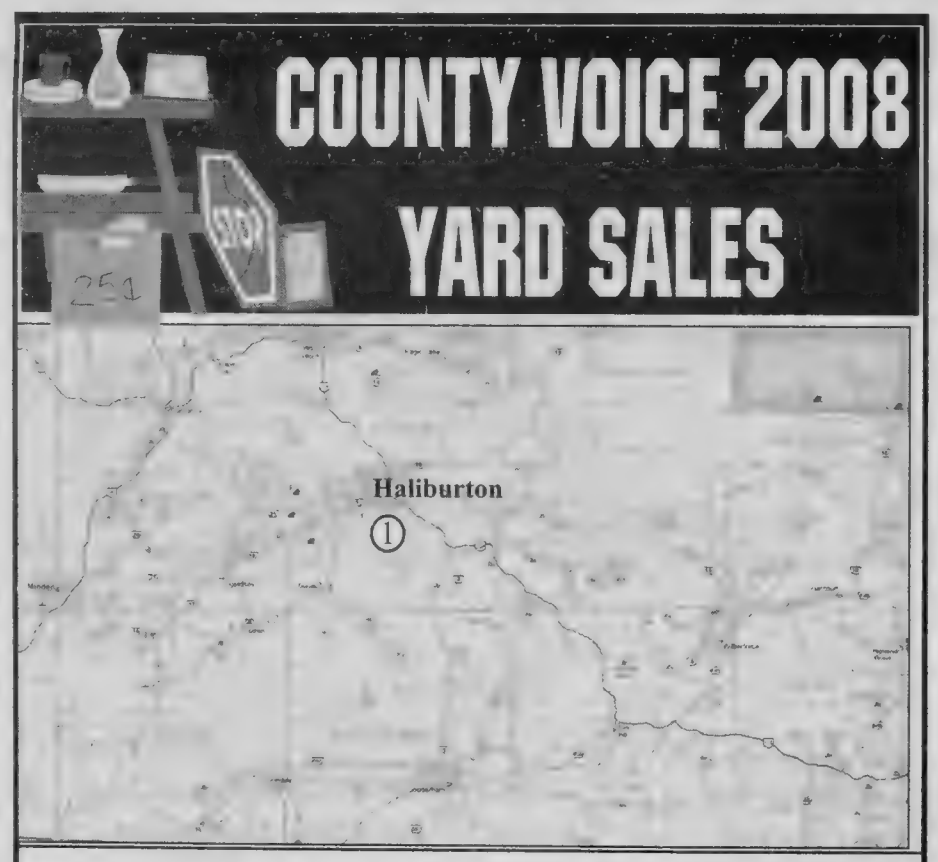
On July 26, 1908, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is created when federal investigators are ordered to report to the Department of Justice. When the Department of Justice was created in 1870, it had no permanent investigators on its staff. At first, it hired private detectives when it needed federal crimes investigated.

On July 27, 1949, the world's first jet-propelled airliner, the British De Havilland Comet, makes its maiden test-flight in England. The Comet was capable of traveling 480 mph, a record speed at the time.

On July 28, 1945, a B-25 bomber crashes into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building, killing 14 people. One engine from the plane went straight through the building and landed in a penthouse apartment across the street.

On July 29, 1996, track-and-field legend Carl Lewis wins his fourth consecutive Olympic gold medal in the long jump. He had barely managed to qualify for the U.S. team in the long jump and most experts believed he'd be lucky to medal, let alone win another gold.

On July 30, 1974, under coercion from the U.S. Supreme Court, President Richard M. Nixon releases subpoenaed White House recordings to special prosecutor Leon Jaworski. On Aug. 5, transcripts of the recordings were released. Four days later, Nixon became the first president in U.S. history to resign.



1 **YARD SALE-** 1035 Cowan Road (off Mountain Street) Antiques, car parts & many household items. Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27 from 9am-3pm. july d 08

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Announcements

Thank You

Thank You

"The family of the late Frank Hegenauer would like to thank those that assisted us during our most recent loss. Especially the Minden Ambulance drivers, Dr. D. Fiddler, nurses and staff at the Minden Hospital. A special note to Mike and Lynn for all your love and care `Thank you for being there for us.` Many thanks to the Minden Prostate Cancer Support Group for all your care and understanding. To those that brought food, sent condolence notes and made donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation and finally to Dwaine, Lori Lloyd & Staff at the Haliburton Community Funeral Home for their care, understanding and assistance. We are truly blest to live in such a wonderful Community."

Ruth Hegenauer , Nelly Ashworth & Family

Engagement

ENGAGEMENT

HUTCHINSON/BROWN- Bob & Ingrid Brown together with Ralph & Margaret Hutchinson are very proud to announce the engagement of their children Cynthia Brown to Juston Hutchinson. Wedding to take place in May 2009.

Death Notices

MEMORIAL CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF LORRAINE CATHERINE SMITH

Saturday, August 2, 2008 from 2-5pm
Haliburton United Church

Lorraine died in Ottawa on September 10, 2007 with her family around her. Lorraine spent her childhood summers at the cottage of her parents Catherine and Norman Smith on Lake Kashagawigamog. Since she and Donald were married in 1953, they, their children and their grandchildren had many wonderful visits there. Her father, who purchased the property in 1927, turned it over to Lorraine in 1993. Lorraine and Don built an all-season house there in 1995 and after their retirements spent more time there than anywhere else locally.

They were members of the Haliburton Highlands Field Naturalists, Kawartha Field Naturalists, the cross-country ski club, the cycling club (The Real Easy Ryders), the County Advisory Committee for the Environment, Environment Haliburton!, and the Highland Twirlers (square-dance club.) They were keen participants in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project in 2001- 2005. In addition, Lorraine was a member of the Haliburton Branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women and was a very active participant in the formation of the Haliburton Land Trust.

Her family hopes that her many neighbours and friends from the above organizations and others with be able to attend to remember her and share memories and refreshments.

Missing Cat - Still

Female cat missing over a month. Cat is fixed and very friendly. Missing from Osprey Road and Soyers Lake area. Call 455-9595 if you have seen or have this cat. Answers to Harley. Loves to play ball and fetch. The cat is older and larger than this picture represents.

Notices

VENDORS NEEDED- Flea Market- Agricultural Fair. Wilberforce Arena on August 9th, 2008. You can set up Friday and leave your goods in the arena all weekend. (9:00 am until 4:00 pm) Table rentals are $15. Event sponsored by: The Highlands East Summer Event Committee. Call Karen (705) 448-2814 to book your spot.

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INTERNAL/EXTERNAL JOB POSTING

Activator (Intern),
Minden on the Move Initiative
Part Time/Full Time Ending March 31/09

The Township of Minden Hills Community Services Department requires a motivated and enthusiastic individual to fill the role of "Activator" for the Minden on the Move Initiative.

For a complete job description, please check www.mindenhills.ca or email rcox@mindenhills.ca.

The successful applicant is expected to commence as soon as possible. This is a contract position until March 31, 2009 and the hourly wage is $13.50 for 35 hours per week. The work schedule will include some evenings.

Résumés with a letter of application should be submitted marked to the attention of Rick Cox at:

The Township of Minden Hills
PO Box 359, 7 Milne Street
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
Fax: 705-286-6005
Email: rcox@mindenhills.ca

Applications will be accepted until 4:00pm July 28, 2008. If selected for an interview, a clear criminal reference check is required.

Personal information and supporting material is used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. We thank all applicants who apply but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The Township of Minden Hills is an equal opportunity employer.

Help Wanted

SIRCH Community Services & Consulting Inc.
HOSPICE/ALZHEIMER'S CLIENT SERVICES COORDINATOR
4 days per week

SIRCH is a charitable organization that provides community-based Hospice services and Alzheimer/dementia support to residents of Haliburton County. We are seeking a highly competent Client Services Coordinator. Responsibilities will include intake, service planning and coordination; group facilitation; recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers; program development and quality assurance.

Qualifications:
University Degree in related Health/Social Services or equivalent; related experience in a community-based organization; excellent leadership, communication, organizational skills; volunteer management experience; computer-literacy. Valid driver's license and reliable vehicle.

Salary range: $19.00 – 23.00/hour + benefits
Send resume and cover letter by email/fax/mail by August 1, 2008 to:

Hospice Hiring Committee
SIRCH Community Services & Consulting
Box 687, 4633 County Rd 21, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
info@sirch.on.ca Fax 457-5352

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

SIRCH
So It Really Can Happen
Community Services & Consulting

Help Wanted

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Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Classification: EARLY INTERVENTIONIST
Permanent Full, Part-time and Contract positions available

POSITION PURPOSE

Under the direction of the Supervisor, Early Intervention Services, plans, develops and implements support plans for infants and young children with special needs and their families.

QUALIFICATIONS

Diploma in ECE and a post diploma Resource Teacher Certificate, or the equivalent education.
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Please check our website at www.pointintime.ca for full description of position

Send resumes and cover letters to Human Resources, Box 1306, Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0, fax 705-457-3492 or email to hr@pointintime.ca. Closing date is July 23, 2008 by 4:00 p.m.

SIRCH Community Services & Consulting Inc.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Full time contract position

SIRCH is a charitable organization that provides a wide range of programs, services and training in and beyond Haliburton County.

We are seeking a highly motivated and experienced individual with lots of positive energy for the position of the Executive Assistant. Reporting to the Executive Director, duties will be wide-ranging and varied. Responsibilities include administrative support; assisting in the development, editing and distribution of presentations, proposals, and other agency literature; project management; and community relations.

Qualifications:
Post secondary diploma or degree in business; strong organizational, administrative, interpersonal and problem-solving skills; effective written and spoken communication skills; the ability to meet deadlines under pressure; the ability to manage multiple concurrent tasks; demonstrated ability to be flexible. High proficiency in use of computers including full competence in common professional office software applications. Valid driver's license and reliable vehicle.

This position is open immediately as a contract until April 2009, and may be renewed at that time.

Wage range: $16.00 – 21.00/hour
Send resume and cover letter by email/fax/mail by deadline August 1, 2008 to:

Executive Assistant Hiring Committee
SIRCH Community Services & Consulting
Box 687, 4633 County Rd 21, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
info@sirch.on.ca Fax 457-5352

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Classification: FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER
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POSITION PURPOSE

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· Develop, monitor and administer the operating and capital budgets within prescribed funding models;
· Perform all accounting and bookkeeping duties in A/P, A/R, Payroll and the General Ledger on a monthly basis in preparation for year end audit
· Maintain waiting lists for market units, modified units and internal transfers
· Offer units and conduct lease interviews as required
· Establishes and monitors policies and procedures to ensure that all legislative requirements are implemented;
· Ensures legislative compliance with applicable legislation.

Minimum Requirements:
· Post-secondary education in Business Administration or Property Management;
· Minimum (5) five years experience in Social Housing and holds a Property Management Certificate;
· Minimum (5) five years supervisory experience in a related position;
· Extensive knowledge of Social Housing Programs and the Social Housing Reform Act
· Knowledge of Marketing and Contract Law;
· Budgeting and analytical skills;
· Effective communication and interpersonal skills in a potentially conflicting environment;
· Familiarity with small claims court and legal proceedings including form preparation and filing and the Tenant Protection Act Legislation;
· Demonstrated negotiation and conflict resolution skills;
· Demonstrated time-management skills with the ability to prioritize workload and meet deadlines, effectively, with minimal supervision and the ability to deal with multiple demands;
· Excellent written communication skills;
· Ability to exercise discretion and tact and to maintain a high degree of confidentiality at all times;
· Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (ie. Excel, Access, Word); Accounting Software and the Internet;

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Or fax it to: 705-286-3444
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Pets & Agriculture

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Events

EVENTS- MINDEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S monthly meeting- Tuesday, August 5th at 7:30 pm. Minden Community Centre. Topic- TRY YOUR HAND AT CREATING A HOSTA CENTRE PIECE. (Supplies included) Treats- Them's the Berries. For info call Jessie Geall (705) 286-4141july d 08

EVENTS- Support your community Museum! The Haliburton Highlands Museum will be holding it's annual fundraising book sale on Saturday, July 26th between 10 am and 4 pm. Fact, fiction, magazines, and children's book. Stop by and browse through a variety of books for all ages and interests. Book donations are appreciated. (705) 457-2760 july e 08

EVENTS- Teen Dance at the Wilberforce Arena. Saturday, August 9, 2008 from 8 pm to 11 pm. Ages: 8-16 years old. Cost- $3.00 per person. Event sponsored by The Highlands East Summer Event Committee.

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Stanhope Celebrates their Museum's Grand Re-Opening:

Telling the Story of a Township without a Town

The Stanhope Heritage Discovery Museum was looking postcard perfect for its grand re-opening on Saturday, waiting for summer visitors to grace its new and improved space during Stanhope Heritage Day. There's been a lot of hard work put into the museum over the winter months and there's no question that the whimsical little building has had an uplifting experience.

If you've visited the museum in the past you've seen old display cases salvaged from Banks General Store in Haliburton (circa the 1800's). Betty Moffat, Chair of the Stanhope Museum Committee said the old jewelery cases were an absolute monster to work with and were quite limiting in terms of what could be displayed.

The building itself, which used to be the original Stanhope Council Chambers, hasn't changed on the outside, but once you step inside you'll see early maps and displays from an entirely different light.

Work started with drawings and sketches over the winter and was completed just in time for the re-opening. The building was emptied, gutted and the interior painted. After working with two different consultants to get innovative ideas, custom cabinetry was built and installed. Track lights and all new signage show the displays off to their best advantage. Moffat says, "It's much more user friendly!"

"Our museum may be small in size but it contains a lot of history." (Carol Moffat)

New blinds were also installed. According to Moffat you have to be very careful with window coverings to ensure the best light while blocking UV rays that can cause the ultimate demise of artifacts and original documents. Moffat said, "We did a lot of work ourselves to cut costs."

Moffat says her daughter Carol took care of all the new signage. "She spent a lot of time putting the story lines together. Carol is a born researcher and is adamant about accuracy. Each sign tells a wonderful story in itself."

You can pick up the receiver of an authentic old wall phone and listen in on the party line to lilting brogues chat about day-to-day happenings from times gone by. Moffat says she was the operator and both Carol Miller and Susan Beers joined in on the recordings. "We had great fun doing it and Canoe Radio was very gracious in letting us use their recording studio. People love things that are interactive."

Moffat says, "We knew the story we wanted to tell. It was a matter of accommodating the story. When you walk in the door you can immediately see the concept of a Township without a town." How do you form a community when there's no actual town? According to Moffat (and the museum) the homesteaders did it by virtue of getting together wherever they could; in churches, schools, a lodge or the post office.

Moffat said, "Even to invite a neighbor to tea you would write a little note and have the postman deliver the invitation. The post was a key ingredient in creating the community and bringing it together. In those days through social outings and their meeting places people created a sense of community that has lasted throughout the years."

Moffat says over the years her Committee has been very frugal and the Municipality has been very good to them. "Money has been held in reserves at the end of each year, something we won't be able to do in the future." This year the Municipality provided the Museum with a $10,000 capital improvement allocation. Moffat says they will have to do more fundraising and become more self-sustaining over the years because the Committee has a long term vision.

Their vision for the future of the museum includes a new building worth upwards of $250,000. Moffat said Jim Blake helped the Committee to prepare a strategic plan, examining facilities and services, but a proposal to Council was turned down. This hasn't dampened anyone's spirit, as efforts to raise funds for a new building continue.

"We have thousands of things in the basement of the municipal building that could go into a new building. Our committee works there over the winter months. Everything was initially all hand written but a lot of hard work has gone into creating a very efficient computer system that cross references all of our artifacts and papers." Moffat proudly said, "Stanhope us the only municipality in the county that hasn't lost items to fire or flood."

Moffat says they have a plan that would make the existing museum the entryway and gift shop with a door at the back that would join two buildings together. "This would maintain the integrity of the original building but allow for year-round use." At the present time the Committee must take everything out of the building each fall.

Moffat said the Committee has been successful with several projects with the help of the HCDC. A Driving Tour Brochure, which promotes all of the museums in the area, rolled off the press last Friday. The Museum developed the first-ever collaboration between the county's five museums to create the Highlands Heritage Map. Each of the museums picked their top six points of interest they wanted included in a county-wide heritage drive.

The Committee has developed another two-for-one brochure that highlights both the Museum and the Hawk Lake Log Chute which comes under the auspices of the museum. Moffat said, "It is the last chute in Ontario of its kind and was in such bad shape. It took seven years of hard work to complete the restoration, and required hours and hours of donated time and materials to reconstruct the 200 foot log chute." A model of the log chute built to scale is one of the unique displays in the tiny museum.

"Another display (a woman at an ironing board) depicts just how hard life was in those times. The early women settlers' work never ended, tending children and homes, their gardens, canning and making preserves for the winter and often sewing all of the clothes for the family."

Moffat says all of her Committee worked very hard to make the changes in the Museum. She made special mention of Norma Goodger, who was very committed to their task and acted as a sort of project manager.

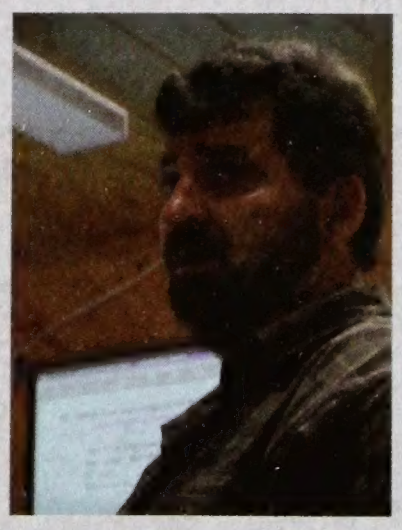
The only regret Moffat has is her wish that more young people had an interest in their heritage. "It's hard to find young people to commit time to heritage projects and I would be delighted to find some new young people to be involved in our Committee.

According to Carol Moffat one of the most interesting projects they received funding for was their digitization project. The Museum has about 600 photos in their collection and over 200 of them were chosen to be digitized. They're on line for people to enjoy or buy. Carol says, "We're in it to share the heritage of the people and places of Stanhope. I believe the future of the collection is on line and we need to make our best effort to digitize our collection for research and education."

According to Carol you should take a look inside the museum and you'll be mighty surprised. "Our museum may be small in size but it contains a lot of history."■

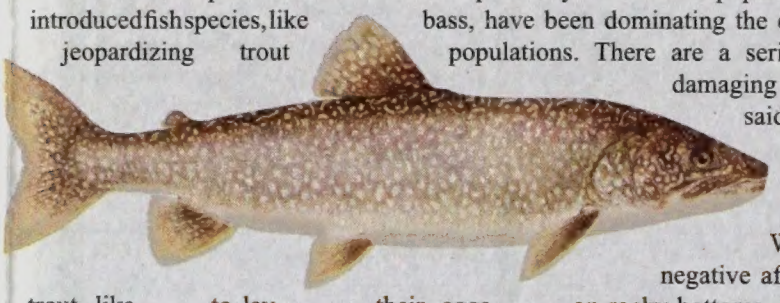
MNR Officer Delivers Cold Facts About Trout Populations

Tyson Farrell
Staff Reporter



Last Saturday Ministry of Natural Resources Extension Biologist David Flowers addressed a small, but keenly interested crowd of concerned Kennisis Lake citizens at the Haliburton Forest base camp on the future of the lake's fishery.

Flower's presentation focused primarily on the trout population. He claims that introduced fish species, like bass, have been dominating the ecosystem, seriously jeopardizing trout populations. There are a series of other factors damaging trout populations, he said.



Fluctuating water levels caused by the Trent Severn Waterway have a negative affect on trout. "Lake trout like to lay their eggs on rocky bottoms, in relatively shallow water. They tend to do this in October, when lake levels go down. When the water levels decrease, these rocky areas are often exposed, and the eggs die," he said. "Brook Trout tend to breed in steams and brooks that empty in to lakes. But when the water levels are way down, the trout can't swim up the streams." Flowers said that he is negotiating with the TSW, and they are attempting to stop fluctuating water levels by the end of September, allowing the trout to spawn uninterrupted.

Flowers also pointed out that fishermen can be a threat to fish populations. "Fishing regulations are important to protect the fish," he said. "Kennisis Lake does not have as much pressure from fishermen as lakes along the Highway 35 corridor. Halls Lake, Boshkung, and other lakes along Highway 35 have far higher fishing pressure."

Some Kennisis Lake residents are complaining that the Lake Trout fishing is poor, but as Flowers explained, this is nothing new. At the meeting he had a series of letters written to the MNR by Kennisis Lake residents. One letter dated from 1957, contained the complaints of a man who recently purchased a cottage on the lake and was very disappointed by the poor Lake Trout fishing.

Flowers explained the MNR effort to protect trout in Kennisis Lake. Many audience members were surprised to learn that the MNR began stocking trout in Kennisis in 1925. "The native Kennisis trout population was destroyed around 1900 when the area was being heavily logged. In 1925 Lake Manitou trout were introduced to Kennisis, and that's what's in there today." Since 1925, approximately 210,890 trout have been stocked in Kennisis by the MNR.

Despite the MNR's long history at Kennisis Lake, they are unable to locate the trout's spawning beds. "We're spent a lot of time looking for the spawning grounds, and we've narrowed it down to five or six possible areas, but we still don't know for certain where they are spawning."

Flowers hopes to develop a co-operative fisheries management program with Kennisis Lake, operated by local citizens. Haliburton Forest owner Peter Schleifenbaum attended the meeting, and he had several questions for Flowers. "Is the objective to create good fisheries for fishermen, or a good aquatic ecosystem?" he asked. Flowers responded by saying that it would be up to the co-operative management program to define the objectives.

Schleifenbaum also asked if it would be possible to replace the Manitou strain of trout in Kennisis with a more local strain. Flowers suggested that this may not be worthwhile, since the Manitou strain has adapted to the environment.

Although the majority of the people at the meeting were from the Kennisis Lake area, there were representatives from other lakes there as well. Mountain Lake Property Owners Association President Don Benson was in attendance, as Mountain Lake is also working with Flowers to protect their trout population. They are currently taking genetic samples from fish caught by anglers to help the MNR in their research. Flowers is encouraging anglers on Kennisis to do similarly, and to take fishing journals to help him collect information. As Flowers said, "We need to figure out where the trout are in Kennisis Lake."■

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Bus: (705) 489-1235

Little Kennisis - $459,000.00

141 ft on Little Kennisis. Lg docking system, sand beach area & rock shore with lots of deep water. Sitting close to the water is a 4 season cottage/3 bdrms, play rm, open concept LR/DR/kitchen, lg deck. Storage shed for the summer & winter toys. Fully furnished, ready to move in.
Gloria Carnechan or Cindy Muenzel * 754-1932

Home with acreage - $209,000

Custom home on a beautiful private 28 acre lot which backs onto crown land. The home features pine cathedral ceilings, bright open concept with large windows and a new ensuite bath off the master bdrm. The property has a large hardwood bush, some cleared areas.
Chris & Michelle Smolarz * 457-2414

McCue Lake View - $144,900

3 bedrm. McCue lake across the road. Refinished original hardwood flooring & colonial trim & new ceramic tile. Renovations include the roof, new windows & doors, soffit & facia, wiring, drywall, new main flr washrm, new 4 pc upstairs bathrm, new generator wired in.
Chris & Michelle Smolarz * 457-2414

Minden Lake - $329,000

Prime location on Minden Lake this waterfront home provides excellent year round enjoyment with a short drive to town. The office/den, previously was used as 3rd bedroom. Lot is nicely treed with gentle slope to water. Large deck overlooking lake, large two car garage with work area. Lakefront living at it's best.
Al Mayo * 286-1234

Burnt River - $179,900

Brick bungalow. Move in condition. One of the 3 bedrooms is partially completed, could very easily be a large master bedroom. Only 3km away from 4-Mile Lake with public access and boat launch. 3-season sunroom on large deck with great view of level backyard.
Peter Franzen* 286-1234

Clement Lake - $229,900

The original owners of this well built, well maintained cottage are leaving virtually everything behind so it comes ready for your immediate enjoyment. The hard sand shoreline allows kids some room to wade around and the deep water off the dock is great for the avid swimmer.
Lorri Roberts * 457-2414

Country Home - $274,900

C2 zoning offers a lot of different business ideas. Highway 35 frontage, Great Country home, hemlock floors full basement, 3 bedrooms, double attached insulated garage
David Lee * 286-1234
www.haliburtonhighlands-realestate.ca

Stormy Lake - $379,900

3 bdrm, 1 bath Viceroy type cottage with excellent big lake view. Vaulted windows with cathedral ceilings and loaded with pine flooring. Open concept with centralized fireplace in living room. Includes aluminum boat & motor, paddleboat, fridge, stove, dishwasher, washer & dryer and most of the furnishings.
Debbie Cumber* 457-2414

Fabulous Home or Cottage - $189,900

2.38 ACRES!! This recently upgraded 3+ bedroom home or cottage, shows pride of ownership and is move-in ready. Beautiful perennial gardens, 4 season sunroom, artesian well and new shingles in 2007, large garage and workshop. Deeded access to the Kennisis River.
Lindsay Elder ** 286-1234

Private - $269,900

9.5 acre with 568 ft. on Irondale River. 3 bedrooms with den. Modern kitchen, fireplace in living room. Trails & gardens. Single car garage. Call for appointment.
Grace Lougheed * 286-4106

Kushog Lake - $879,000

Features large eat-in kitchen, separate living room, dining room, plus den, laundry on main floor off kitchen with door to back deck plus a 2 pce powder room. Large master bdrm with ensuite, plus 3 other bdrms, 4pce bath. Attached heated double garage.
Ed Gibbons * 286-1234

Kushog Lakes - $889,000

This spectacular 4 bdrm bungalow has it all. Grand front foyer leads to open concept living room/dining room/kitchen, with glass doors to huge entertainment deck. Lower level walk-out from family room. Also includes 1500 sq ft garage/workshop with new top quality guest quarters.
Vince Jarvis * 286-1234

Gooderham Lake - $289,900

A quaint cottage with a nice lake view and a clean sand shoreline with deep water off the dock. There's lots of room for guests in the two bunkies and a lake full of fish for the avid angler. A great cottage property at an affordable price.
Anthony vanLieshout** 457-2414

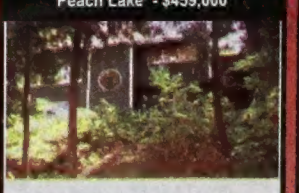
Gull Lake - $389,900

Enjoy a great view of Gull Lake from the master bedroom balcony of this recently upgraded cottage. Within the past two years improvements include Pine ceilings, metal roof & skylight, new dock, new wiring & panel, Laminate flooring, pressure tank & pump, etc.
Patti & Hal Johnson ** 236-1234 ex 238

Cranberry Lake - $379,000

This large 3 bdrm home sits on a level lot with a big lake view and sand shore. Huge living room and dining room with patio doors. Spacious master bedroom with ensuite and wonderful lake views. This waterfront home/cottage is perfect for the family.
Tom Gardner * 286-1234

Peach Lake - $459,000



Exceptional 3 bedroom and den cottage/home with 307 feet frontage on a pristine lake. Very private with western exposure. Bunkie and metal storage shed. Propane and wood fireplaces with main floor laundry. Natural lot with no grass to cut. Viceroy style with low E windows.
Barry Warren * 286-1234

Gooderham Lake - $368,900

3 bedroom, 2 washroom, 1150 sq. ft. 4 season home/cottage on level lot. Modern open concept decor, corner fireplace, main floor laundry, custom kitchen, formal dining & living room area with walkout to decking, all appliances, propane furnace, back up generator wired to house, drilled well, septic.
Cathy Bain * 457-2414

Vacant Land - $30,000

Build your dream home on this 1.41 acre lot located on private road off Sandy Bay Rd. Nicely treed and within walking distance to Gull Lake for swimming and boating.
Susan Johnson * 286-1234

* Sales Representative ** Broker *** Broker of Record

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FOUR OFFICES SERVICING HALIBURTON COUNTY

Haliburton **457-2128** Kennisis **754-2100**

Minden **286-2138** Carnarvon **489-9968**

The Local Experts ™

Perfect Family Setting – $389,000

Custom built 4 BR home on 25 acres. Ceramic, granite & hardwood flooring, open concept dining room/kitchen custom built oak cabinets & island, & wrap-around deck.

Tom Ecclestone 286-2128

Minden Lake $449,000

Stunning, private, child friendly lot. 405 ft of frontage with sand beach. 4 BR cottage with many upgrades. Just 5 mins to Minden

Andrew Hodgson - 286-2128

Rural home $129,900

Three bedroom rural home, new carpet/flooring, new laundry/entry, new decks. W/o bsmt insulated and ready to finish. Super private lot centrally located.

Anne Moulton - 286-2128

Cod Love It! $119,000

Busy Highland St. location. Licensed for 55. Includes all equipment and chattels. Turn Key and open for business!.

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138

Privacy & Tranquility 379,900

3 BR on level lot. 275 feet frontage on quiet lake limited to electric motors. Sand beach. Cathedral ceiling, hardwood floors, walkout deck. Pine "Haliburton" room.

John Hincks 286-2138

Newer Custom Built Home $259,000

Stunning 4+1 BR 2000 sq. ft home, 2-single insulated garages on larger private lot central to Minden & Haliburton. Ample

Janice Brookes 457-2128

Halls Lake View $349,000

Enjoy the sand beach & big lake experience for an affordable price with this newly renovated 4 BR home/cottage featuring sun room, dbl garage, year round access & more!

Andrew Hodgson - 286-2128

1 Acre Treed Lot $27,900

Fronting on paved municipal road. Lot is gently sloping. Steps to beach on Halls Lake.

Hank Bertrand 457-2128

Little Kennisis $559,000

Turn-key cottage/home on gently sloping lot with Bunkie, Garage, Family room with Walk-out, "E-Z' docking system and drilled well. Comes completely furnished!

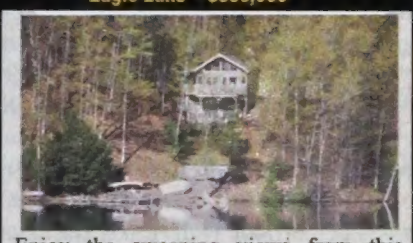
Shirley Rule and Kerrie Farr 754-2100

Custom Built in Haliburton $799,000

4000 sqft 5BR, 4 Bath, w/ docking on Head Lake. Separate entrance with, 2 BR & 2 baths, great for Granny flat, Triple garage.

Hank Bertrand 457-2128

Eagle Lake - $389,000



Enjoy the sweeping views from this fabulous 3 BR, 2 bath cottage. Open concept, vaulted ceilings, multiple walkouts, minutes to Sir Sams.

Drew Bishop - 457-2128

Cute as a Button $279,000

Vintage 3 BR cottage, 720 sq ft, airtight woodstove on the perfect flat lot with flat rock and sand beach shoreline on a municipal road located in a quiet dead end bay.

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

Kennisis West Shore Rarity 1,229,000

Absolutely gorgeous newer 4 BR 4 bath home/cottage on 2.61 acres & 240 ft ftg, NW exp. Stunning maple kit with granite counter tops. A must see.

Mark Dennys 457-2128

Eagle lake Area $229,900

3 BR, 2 bath chalet on over 3 acres of forested property with private pond. Open concept with large kitchen, private master floor with ensuite.

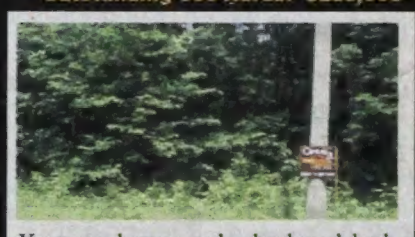
Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128

Bungalow $189,900

Private 15 acres with 3 bedroom cottage or home overlooking Drag Pond. Just min. from Haliburton village. Includes a 8 x 16 bunkie.

Paul Szpik – 457-2128

Outstanding 300 Acres! $289,000



Year round mun road, hardwood bush, trails, small lake/large pond. Under managed forest agreement = less taxes, crown land to the north. Wildlife abounds!!

Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

Ultimate Weekend Retreat $139,000

A very unique 34 acre parcel with 3 ponds, one with waterfalls and a diving board, 2 cabins, 2 garages, the ultimate retreat

Greg Stamp 457-2128

Spruce Lake $349,800

114 ft of great shoreline with miles of boating to Drag Lake. Winterized cottage on great private setting just min from Haliburton Village.

Wilf VanLieshout - 457-2128

Hunter Creek $86,900

Well cared for home has many upgrades/renos in adult only community just 2 min from Minden. Small maintenance fee covers snow removal, garbage pick up, and much more. Dagmar Boettcher- 286-2138

New and Improved! - 219,900

Cute cottage in quiet inlet on Minden Lake with sandy bottom, great fishing and beautiful rapids. Southern exp. New dbl capacity septic & power line. Close to town.

Kristin Withey 286-2138

* Sales Representative ** Broker *** Broker of Record

Hank Bertrand ** 457-2128

Drew Bishop ** 457-2128

Janice Brookes * 457-2128

Dagmar Boettcher * 286-2138

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Kristin Withey * 286-2138

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